Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

With the defeat of candidates aligned with him and the possibility that he may be impeached in January, should Gov. Benigno R. Fitial resign now?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Natural gas causes deadly explosion in an Indianapolis neighborhood. ➤ PAGE 14

WORLD

Israeli tanks struck a Syrian artillery launcher Monday. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Victoria's Secret apologizes for using a Native American headdress. ➤ PAGE 20

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Police report three death incidents. PAGE 8

Fund halts release of refund checks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Hundreds of Fund members who have applied for and are waiting for their refunds face an indefinite delay in their checks following the decision by Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano to suspend the disbursement of checks until the federal court provides guidance on future releases.

Razzano said yesterday that the decision is due to the continued failure of the government and its agencies to remit the required payments to the agency, both employee and employer contributions.

For fiscal year 2012 alone, these agencies and the government have failed to fully pay both contributions for members of the defined benefit plan.

The recently enacted Public Law 17-82, which allows Fund members to withdraw their contributions, requires the Fund to refund not only the amounts the government remitted but also the amounts the government failed to remit.

According to Razzano, this creates a problem.

"The government's failure to pay the outstanding employee and employer contributions for members of the DB

See FUND on Page 4

2 vie for House vice speaker post

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least two members of the so-called "supermajority" in the incoming 18th House of Representatives are vying for the vice speaker post: Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) and Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan).

Dela Cruz

Maratita

"I intend to be the next vice speaker. I think that women should be represented in the leadership," Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Dela Cruz, in a separate interview, said seniority in the House should be respected. Given that the next speaker will be Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) of Precinct 1, it is "only fitting that the vice speaker should come from Precinct 3," he added.

Deleon Guerrero, currently the House minority leader, and Maratita both come from Precinct 1, while Dela Cruz is from Precinct 3. Both precincts have the largest number of House members at six each, while other precincts have only up to two.

See VICE SPEAKER on Page 4

Roadblock sends acting AG, others to As Teo

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Luisa Borja Quitugua, 80, sits in front of a partial roadblock on her property to prevent a government backhoe from removing the man-made blockade on portions of Santa Lourdes Road in As Teo yesterday afternoon. The Quitugua family is demanding full payment of over $100,000 from the government for the use of their property for almost 28 years, but the Office of the Attorney General said the Legislature will be the one to appropriate money for judgments that could include land claims payment.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A government backhoe made its way to a portion of Santa Lourdes Road in As Teo yesterday afternoon to remove a man-made partial roadblock, only to back off minutes later after landowner Luisa Borja Quitugua, 80, positioned herself in front of the blockade consisting of loose coral and giant signs and demanded government payment of over $100,000 including interest for using her property for almost 28 years.

"I'm not afraid of being arrested, I won't leave. The government has to pay me in full, we've been waiting almost 28 years but there's nothing. They paid the others in the area but not me. Why?" Quitugua told *Saipan Tribune* as she guarded portions of her 730-square-meter property.

Besides Department of Public Works personnel, also on the scene were police officers in uniform but they said they were not there to arrest anyone but to ensure peace and safety.

At 3:38pm, acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo, along with police officers in civilian clothes, arrived to talk to the Quitugua family.

The Quitugua family placed the partial roadblock on Friday, prompting Superior Court Associate Judge Perry Inos to issue a temporary restraining order against Quitugua and her son Elbert.

Inos' order states in part that the two Quituguas are "hereby restrained, en-

See ROADBLOCK on Page 4

Local

DPS looking for designated drivers for 3D campaign

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is looking for more volunteers for the 2012 National Drunk and Drugged Driving "3D" Prevention Campaign, which will be in full swing from Nov. 26, 2012, to Jan. 3, 2013.

The annual campaign, which aims to address the problem of drunk driving during the holidays, will educate the public on impaired driving prevention and illustrate the number of ways the community can encourage safe and sober driving practices.

"Though the holidays bring joy and celebration with family and friends, they also bring tragic increase in the incidence of impaired driving," DPS said in a statement.

Those who want to volunteer as a designated driver for the campaign are invited to attend the orientation on Friday, Nov. 16, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Northern Marianas College Student Center Building J.

Volunteers should bring the original and copy of a valid CNMI driver's license at the orientation.

For more information about the campaign, call police officers Flora Aguon at 287-7308 or Therese Kintoki at 483-8342 during regular business hours from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Rotary lunch treat for *man'amko* to include table games and raffle

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan already has arranged for table games to be played by Rotarians with the *man'amko* during the Thanksgiving luncheon on Tuesday.

Community Services director Curtis Dancoe reported yesterday that the games include the ninja card game to be facilitated by Rotarian Reina Camacho's group, rapid five by vice president Laila Boyer's group, and the cereal box and quarter drop games by Laurie Peterka's group.

Dancoe explained each group needs three members who will be in charge of explaining the mechanics, timekeeping, and ticket distribution.

"That's why we need the expertise of all Rotarians in engaging the *man'amko* in those games," he added.

Dancoe said the games will be held from 10am to 11:30am. "Any *man'amko* who wants to try the game will get one ticket just for trying, being there, and having a good time, win or lose. If they win, they get two tickets for better chances of winning in the raffle draw."

After the games, Rotarians and the congregates at the Aging Center in Garapan will share a catered feast, to be followed by entertainment by the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band, and Hapi D Clown.

The raffle draw, which will hand out in-kind and monetary giveaways, will culminate the annual Thanksgiving activity of the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Established in 1968, Rotary Club of Saipan is one of the over 34,200 service clubs dedicated to upholding the principles established by Rotary International, including providing humanitarian services, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and building goodwill and peace in the world.

Pacific fishing zones: Lifeline for overfished tuna?

Marine zoning in the Pacific Ocean, in combination with other measures, could significantly improve dwindling numbers of heavily overfished bigeye tuna and improve local economies, a fish modeling study has found.

Scientists working at the University of Hawaii, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and Collecte Localisation Satellites have found that a network of marine zones in the Pacific Ocean could be a more effective conservation measure than simply closing relatively small areas to some types of fishing.

These marine zones, where different fishing activities are allowed in different areas, may have significant and widespread benefits for bigeye tuna numbers.

Dr. John Hampton, of the Oceanic Fisheries Program of the SPC, is one of four scientists leading the study.

After testing the effectiveness of a range of conservation measures with an ecosystem and fish population model, Hampton said the team found that the most efficient measures were to restrict both longline fishing in tuna-spawning areas and the use of fish-aggregating devices (e.g. moored or drifting buoys that attract fish) in areas where boats use purse-seine nets.

"We found that simply closing areas off to fishing doesn't work, because the boats just move their operations to neighboring zones and chase fish even harder. It's going to need a combination of approaches," he said.

"The model will help people evaluate different ways of managing tropical tuna fisheries. Our predictions can help countries estimate how effective conservation measures might be, relative to any economic effects, and tailor measures to suit their goals. The advantage of this approach is that effects can be estimated locally, as well as for the stock as a whole."

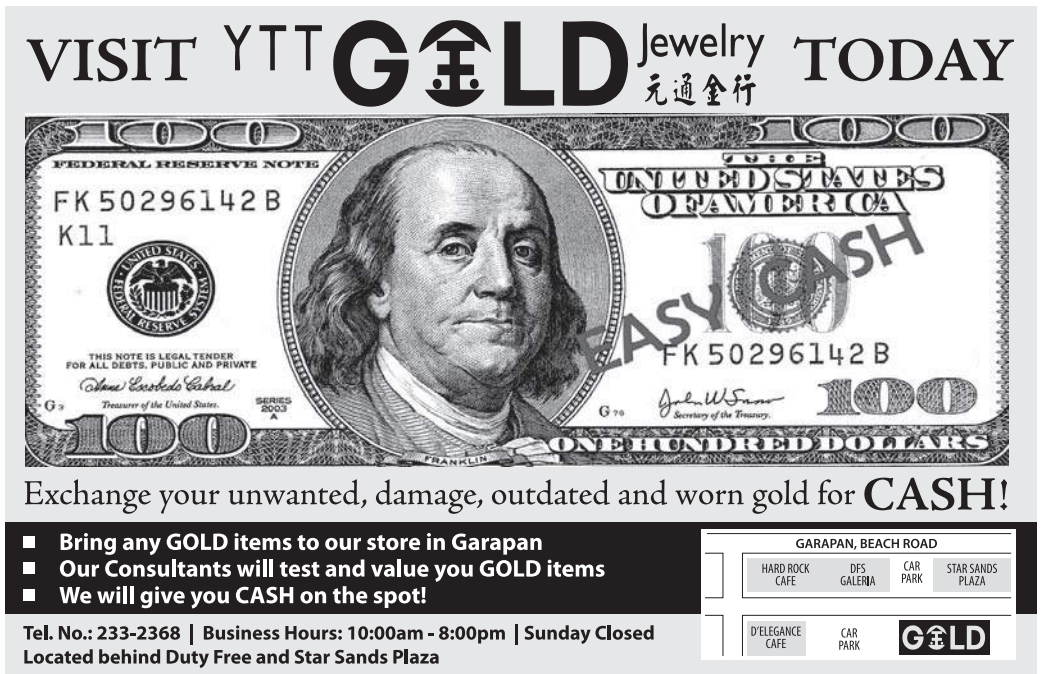
Half the current bigeye tuna catch is by the longline method, which targets high-value tuna sold as fresh fish. This commands a market premium and sells for over $10 per kilogram.

The other half is caught in purse-seine nets as incidental catch when aiming to catch skipjack tuna. These juvenile bigeye tuna are sold to the canning industry for $1.70 per kilogram.

Hampton says the study calls for a complete economic valuation of the Western Central Pacific Ocean tuna fishery.

He says the most important thing is that fish are protected throughout their lifetime.

Rebuilding the bigeye-tuna stock will take at least 15 years, and will be affected by any climate changes the ecosystems experience. ***(SPC)***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'Passage of POB has no immediate impact on Fund'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The recent passage of the pension obligation bond initiative can't immediately help alleviate the problems of the NMI Retirement Fund, according to the investment consultant for the CNMI's pension program.

Wilshire Consulting principal Maggie Ralbovsky told *Saipan Tribune* that the initiative's positive effect on the pension program is still unknown until a viable bond can be floated.

"There is no immediate impact to the Fund. The outcome would depend on whether a viable bond can be floated—meaning, if an underwriter can be identified and demand for the bond can be sourced, and whether the bond can be floated with an affordable interest rate," Ralbovsky said in an email.

She pointed out that "whether the program can be successful is dependent on whether the interest rate the POB is paying investors can be lower than the expected return of the monies invested in the Fund can earn."

In an earlier interview during a visit to Saipan, Ralbovsky cautioned the CNMI from floating a bond, saying it is not the solution to the Fund's problem. She said that if the government is successful in floating a $300-million bond, this would result in a $30-million debt for the CNMI each year. This is based on an assumed 10 percent annual interest.

During meetings and forums on island, Ralbovsky also mentioned the importance of the credit rating of the borrower as well as market conditions and liquidity.

House Legislative Initiative 17-5 was among the three measures that were ratified by voters during last week's mid-term poll. This measure will add a new section in the CNMI Constitution authorizing the government to issue pension obligation bonds, with the intention of infusing new monies into the retirement program. The measure received overwhelming support from voters during the Nov. 6 mid-term elections, garnering a total of 6,876 "yes" votes against 4,152 "no" votes.

The government owes the Fund over $300 million in unpaid employer contributions.

This was the second try on the pension obligation bond initiative after a similar measure failed to get the voters' approval during the 2010 elections.

At present, the Fund is under the guidance of a court-appointed trustee ad litem who is authorized to oversee the management and operation of the Retirement Fund. This setup took effect following the dismissal of the bankruptcy case filed by the former Fund's board of trustees.

Federal grants now consolidated under lieutenant governor office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Nearly three years since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a bill creating a new Office of Grants Management that will oversee the management of millions of dollars in federal grants that the CNMI is eligible to receive annually, an actual office and administrator have finally been established.

This comes at a time when federal spending and grants pumped into the CNMI have already been exceeding the local government's gross revenue.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos announced in a memo that the Office of Grants Management has been established under the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the new office is headed by Sheryl Sizemore, grants administrator, who may be contacted at 664-2245.

Public Law 16-48, signed into law in December 2009, created the office that is responsible for establishing a database of federal grants, doing research of federal grants available to the CNMI, develop grant applications, research grant eligibility through application of sections of the Covenant, and develop grant training programs for government staff.

In the CNMI, both federal and local money are used for a host of programs and services related to health, education, public safety, employment, environmental protection, disability assistance, water, power and wastewater, youth activities, and promoting entrepreneurship.

The federal government's direct expenditures or obligations in the CNMI totaled over $258 million in 2010, while federal grants alone reached almost $190 million in 2010, exceeding CNMI revenue of over $130 million. For fiscal year 2012, the CNMI's budget is $114 million, much less than the federal money coming in.

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Thanksgiving meal to kick off Salvation Army holiday plans

»Fundraising, toy drive lined up

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The CNMI Salvation Army has planned a lineup of activities this holiday season, beginning with a Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 22.

Ministry leader Wayne Gillespie said yesterday that this year's Thanksgiving meal will be held at the Guma Yo' Ase or House of Hope soup kitchen across Hopwood Jr. High School in Chalan Piao.

Gillespie

The soup kitchen is open every Friday and Saturday from 11am to 1pm, and on Sunday from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

Gillespie said having the event at the soup kitchen, which now serves on average about 150 to 200 clients a month, will make it "more efficient." Last year, the event was held in a pavilion along Beach Road.

"The Salvation Army is providing everything," said Gillespie. He noted, though, that they will accept donations of traditional Thanksgiving fares such as turkey or ham.

The day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, the CNMI Salvation Army will launch its Christmas Kettle fundraising program, which involves kettle ringers soliciting spare change from holiday shoppers.

Gillespie said that they are seeking more volunteers to ring kettles this year and he encouraged especially those who can play instruments to bring out their music skills while manning the Red Kettle at grocery stores.

Volunteers are usually asked to do two-hour shifts, usually outside the Joeten Superstore.

"This is a great opportunity for individuals to have a good time and help Salvation Army," said Gillespie, adding that they want to get more volunteers for Fridays and Saturdays as these days are the "most lucrative days."

Gillespie revealed that they will also have the Angel Tree program this year, which is Salvation Army's toy drive wherein establishments are invited to set up and decorate Christmas trees under which toy donations are placed.

He said the toy program will benefit children at the Division of Youth Services' foster care program. Angel Tree sponsors can provide the trees or the Salvation Army can make arrangements for trees and just have the sponsors decorate them.

For more information, visit the CNMI Salvation Army Facebook page or call 483-0885.

Workers Compensation Commission now under Commerce

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed the Workers Compensation Commission under the Department of Commerce and out of the beleaguered NMI Retirement Fund, which the administration also wants to be placed under the Department of Finance.

With WCC out of the way and active members now part of the U.S. Social Security program, the Retirement Fund would be more focused on the pension of retirees, among other things.

Fitial signed House Bill 17-4, House Draft 3 into Public Law 17-88 on Friday, but a copy was obtained only yesterday.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), author of the bill, said he's glad that the first bill he introduced during his term was signed into law, citing its positive impact on the Retirement Fund, which he said will now be more focused on pension of retirees.

» Governor also allows DPS to dispose of firearms in its custody

"This is an administration-sponsored bill," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune.*

PL 17-88 or The Workers Compensation Functions Transfer Amendment Act of 2011 says that Commerce is the appropriate government entity to administer the functions of workers compensation "due to its status as a permitting and enforcement agency, to ensure compliance with the Workers Compensation Law," and to facilitate the implementation of 'one-stop business processing' procedures."

WCC was established in 1989 under PL 6-33 to provide cash benefits, medical care, and rehabilitative services to employees who suffer job-related injuries or deaths. The program also protects employers from the rising cost of damages by limiting the amount employees may recover for on-the-job injuries or deaths.

The governor also signed into law on Friday Rep. Tony Sablan's (IR-Saipan) HB 17-21, House Draft 1, authorizing the Department of Public Safety to dispose of all firearms, dangerous devices or ammunitions within its custody and to require DPS to promulgate the rules.

Sablan's bill is now PL 17-87.

House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), left, talks to acting Viola Alepuyo, center, and 80-year-old Luisa Borja Quitugua, right, in front of a partial roadblock on Santa Lourdes Road in As Teo yesterday afternoon. Palacios said the government should honor a court decision ordering the return of the property to the original owner until they get full compensation, which the Quitugua family said is over $100,000 including interest. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ROADBLOCK

From Page 1

joined, and prohibited from blocking As Teo Road or any other public road in the Commonwealth."

The order also says that "injury to the people of the Commonwealth is immediate and irreparable. It is irreparable because it will be impossible to determine the precise amount of damage to the safety and well-being of the public and the inconvenience caused to the public."

Elbert Quitugua, in a separate interview, said it is clear that the family did not fully block the road because it gave an alternate access route and placed a big "detour" sign for passing motorists.

"My mother is standing her ground. This is her constitutional right," he said.

Elbert Quitugua cited a July court decision ordering that the property in question be returned to the property owner, Luisa B. Quitugua, until the government compensates her in full.

"Despite that court order, the government has not paid. And now they're issuing us a temporary restraining order?" Elbert Quitugua asked.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said he thought this issue had been resolved in July when the court issued an order. He described the situation as "ridiculous."

"The court order should be honored. I don't see what's the holdup on this one," he said, adding that he will bring the matter to Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (R-Saipan).

Elbert Quitugua said the family didn't see a "request for appropriation" from the Office of the Attorney General to the Legislature.

But Alepuyo told the Quitugua family that there was a request sent by former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham to the Legislature.

Alepuyo was referring to an early August letter from Buckingham to the Legislature, informing them that the government has more than $27 million in unpaid judgments needing appropriations. These are owed to 15 claimants or groups of claimants.

Elbert Quitugua said if they rely on that list from the Office of the Attorney General, his mother would have passed away before they get compensation.

The fiscal year 2013 budget has $10,000 for judgments, which could include land compensations.

Had the Legislature appropriated some $27 million to address all unpaid judgments and claims, that would be a big chunk or 24 percent of the government's $114 million budget from Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013.

This is not the first time the Quitugas closed off the road to protest the delayed payment for land compensation.

In August, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) pre-filed a bill that would allow the payment of claims and judgments against the government without specific appropriations, to help address the more than $27 million in unpaid judgments against the government.

The government has been unable to settle claims in the early stages of litigation, claiming that it can only pay money judgments with funds that the Legislature appropriated for the payment.

VICE SPEAKER

From Page 1

"This is going to be my fourth term, while Maratita will have her one-and-a-half term. …I do not want any squabble but we should all have respect," said Dela Cruz, author of the measure establishing the Public Utilities Commission and the recently ratified elected attorney general initiative.

Dela Cruz said the next floor leader is believed to be Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), while the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chairmanship will still go to Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan).

Maratita, who is suing the governor over a no-bid $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement for 25 years, said she would ask Deleon Guerrero to put to all the officers' positions to a vote during the caucus.

Fourteen Independent Republicans and four Covenant Party members make up the 16-member supermajority in the 18th House. Four members of the governor's Republican Party will form the minority in the next Legislature.

In the current 17th Legislature, there are only 11 members of the governor-aligned House majority.

Deleon Guerrero was the main author of a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. Six others co-sponsored the resolution, while two others voted for it for a total of nine "yes" votes—still short of the minimum 14 votes needed to impeach the governor.

However, voters removed from office almost all incumbent House members aligned with the governor and those who voted "no" to impeaching him. All the so-called Noble 9 who voted in favor of the impeachment won, along with eight others who shared their platform of ridding the government of corruption.

Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) won a seat in the Senate.

Deleon Guerrero earlier said the new House majority "has the number to impeach the governor."

In the Senate, while most senators are honoring a so-called "gentleman's agreement" in early 2010 that the Senate presidency in the 18th Legislature will go to a senator from Tinian, the possibility of the governor's impeachment and conviction has become a source of internal leadership struggle.

A so-called "Solid 6" in the Senate is specifically backing Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) as the next president, but another senator is also eyeing the position because of the possibility of being the next lieutenant governor.

FUND

From Page 1

plan has created an inability to comply with the law," said Razzano.

He emphasized that the problem is not about "accounting" as the agency can account for all money actually paid by the government and its agencies to the Fund.

"To be clear, the Fund has and can account for the amounts actually submitted by the government and its agencies…but cannot pay to all members what is required under the law because the government, its agencies, and instrumentalities still possess a significant portion of those funds," he added.

Over 1,700 members have applied for refunds, of which only 94 have so far received their checks.

Razzano described the government's failure to fully remit what it owes the Fund as "tremendously unfair" to all members.

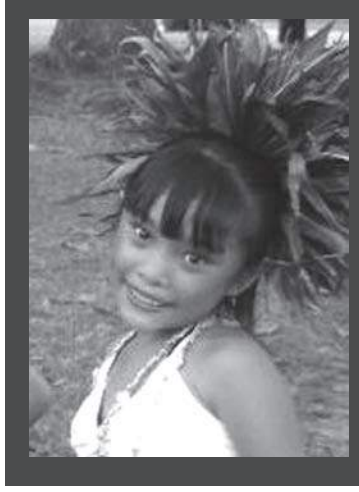
"In order to ensure fair and equal treatment of all DB members, the Fund will be seeking the court's guidance on this issue on an expedited basis. This action will protect the Fund and all of its members," said Razzano, adding that the Fund is striving to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

Despite the suspension of check disbursements, Razzano assured that the Fund will continue to process all applications.

"The Fund will hold off on disbursing any more employee contributions under P.L. 17-82 until the federal court provides guidance on future disbursements. The Fund will continue to process applications so that as soon as the government, its agencies and instrumentalities remit payment or, the court determines that disbursements should continue even though the Fund cannot comply with the law as drafted, the disbursement of employee contributions under PL 17-82 can be made with as little delay as possible," he added.

The Fund earlier said that it has the capability to pay all refund payments as the court has already set aside $113 million for active members.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to our beautiful princess, Kierstin Konnisha, who turns 8 years old today, Nov. 14! You are the sunshine that brings so much joy and happiness to our lives. Have a wonderful birthday! Love from Daddy, Mommy, Jiana, and Jerry Boy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Magdalena Masga! We hope that you will enjoy your special day! May God bless you and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you very much! Greetings come from the Masgas, Jack Mims, children, grandchildren, and your many friends and families.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Air opposes bid to dismiss case vs Swift Air

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Air Inc. is strongly opposing a bid to have its case against Swift Air dismissed, saying the court has jurisdiction over the nonresident defendants of the case.

In a 21-page document filed with the U.S. District Court, Saipan Air counsel Steven P. Pixley cited several judgments and orders relating to similar issues.

Saipan Air is suing Swift Air executives after they failed to deliver an aircraft that would have been used for the maiden flight of the aborted Saipan-based airline. Saipan Air is seeking $50 million in damages.

Swift Air officials filed a motion to dismiss the case on Oct. 12, using the argument that the court lacks personal jurisdiction to handle the lawsuit pursuant to the Rule 12(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Pixley, however, argued that the court possesses specific jurisdiction over Donald A. Stukes, Jeffry Conry, Boris Van Lier, and Hank Tobert.

The Ninth Circuit, he noted, applied a three-part jurisdiction test to determine whether specific jurisdiction may be applied to a defendant.

Under the first of this three-part test, Pixley said that Saipan Air must establish that Stukes, Conry, and Van Lier purposely availed themselves of the privilege of conducting activities in the CNMI.

Pixley said the first factor weighs in favor of Saipan Air because Conry initiated contact with the forum by calling Adam Ferguson, Saipan Air's chief operating officer, on Dec. 11, 2011, where the defendant expressed interest in discussing a possible contract with Saipan Air. Conry, he said, voluntarily solicited business with Saipan Air, which resulted in the travel to the island of another defendant, Van Lier, upon instruction from Conry.

For the second factor for specific jurisdiction whether Saipan Air's claims arise out of or result from the defendants' forum activities, Pixley said that Saipan Air was considering various carriers when Conry telephoned Ferguson and actively solicited business on Saipan.

The final requirement in finding specific jurisdiction, which requires that the defendants exercise of jurisdiction must comport with fair play and substantial justice, was also met by Saipan Air, Pixley said.

RICO Act invoked

On Swift Air's claim that the court has no basis to exercise personal jurisdiction over them because they are based outside the CNMI, Pixley invoked the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act or RICO Act, which provides a nationwide service of process.

Pixley cited one of the provisions of RICO Act: "All other process in any action or proceeding under this chapter may be served on any person in any judicial district in which such person resides, is found, has an agent, or transacts his affairs.

Pixley cited the *Busch v. Buchman, Buchman & O'Brien* case in 1994 where the court concluded that a federal district court in Texas had personal jurisdiction over a New York defendant.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '83 meeting set

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join us for our general meeting this Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, at the Beach Road Pavilion in Garapan, at 7pm. If you have any question, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly support meeting today, Nov. 14, 2012, at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting guest speaker will be Roxanne Diaz, director, Public Health Services, CHC. Her presentation will feature detailed information on promoting supportive environment for healthy lifestyle. To RSVP or for more information, call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

'Some building permits OK'd despite non-ADA compliance'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the barriers being encountered by the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. is the approval of building construction permits that do not consider the American Disability Act's accessibility guidelines, according to executive director Jim Rayphand.

Rayphand, one of the NMPASI staff who served as guest speaker at yesterday's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan, said they run into cases where business owners are given permits for buildings that were inspected and approved without accessibility designs.

Enacted in 1990, the ADA is a law that prohibits discrimination based on disability, defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The law guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

Through ADA, accessibility guidelines have been developed to ensure that individuals with disabilities are given accommodations whether in work places or public areas.

Rayphand said that buildings built prior to the implementation of ADA were "grandfathered" by the law. But those that were built after that period, including those that had undergone renovations, have to incorporate accessibility plans.

While there are entities that do not work well with NMPASI when it comes to compliance with ADA accessibility rules, Rayphand noted that there are government agencies that cooperate with them, particularly the Public School System.

Rayphand described as amazing the improvements done by PSS in the school system, especially with its special education department.

He emphasized that the law requires accessibility for individuals with disabilities, and the responsibility of compliance with these accessibility guidelines rests on employers and building owners.

Litigation, declining revenue

Founded in 1993, NMPASI is a nonprofit organization with a mission to protect the civil, legal and human interests of individuals with disabilities.

"Our basic job is to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities," said Rayphand, adding that they do so by providing representation and doing educational outreach.

He said their organization promotes independence, encouraging individuals with disabilities to be part of the workforce, and blend with the community.

He pointed out that in discrimination cases, NMPASI only resorts to litigation, the last step, when all administrative remedies have been exhausted.

"We try to do everything on the lowest level possible because we don't want to drag stuff through the courts, wasting people's time and money [that] could go toward improving what's going on in the community," he explained.

Like any nonprofit, the group also deals with "declining revenue," which primarily comes from federal grants, said Rayphand.

"Now we're looking at other ways to survive," he said. "Nonprofit organizations are always looking for help and donations."

To donate or for more information, call NMPASI at 235-7273 or 74 (voice) or 235-7278 (tty).

US MILITARY CONTRACTING FORUM II
Opportunities for the Marianas
November 16th, 2012 - 8:00am - 5:00pm • Tinian Dynasty Hotel
Hosted by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Sen. Jim Webb
United States Senator Representing the State of Virginia
Senate Committee on Armed Services, Chairman of Key Personnel Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Chairman of the East Asia & Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
(Speaking via pre-prepared video)

Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan
Member, US House of Representatives Representing the Northern Mariana Islands
Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs

RDML Tilghman D. Payne
US Defense Representative Micronesia
Commander US Naval Forces Marianas
Commander Joint Region Marianas

COL. L Scott Loch
Commander Marine Corps Activity - Guam

LT. COL. Aisha Bakkar
Public Affairs Officer, Marine Corps Activity - Guam

LT. COL. Thomas E Frederick
Executive Officer
Marine Aircraft Group 12 – Iwakuni Japan

CAPT. John V. Heckmann Jr.
Commanding Officer NAVFAC Marianas

Mr. Felix J. Leon
Deputy Chief, Defense Logistics Agency - Troop Support

Mr. Albert Sampson
Small Business Advisor NAVFAC Marianas

Mrs. Brandy M. Untalan
Customer Service Director
GSA, Federal Acquisition Service, Asia Pacific Region

Mr. Boris Hertslet
Program Manager, Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Mr. Casey Jeszenka
Network Director, Pacific Islands, Small Business Development Center

Mr. Tony Barcinas
Business Program Specialist, USDA-Rural Development

Ms. Cindy Aldan
Public Information Officer
CNMI - Military Integration Management Committee

Mr. Christopher J. Genera
Special Agent - Naval Criminal Investigative Service Residence Agency Marianas

Register online at www.TinianChamber.com
The Tinian Chamber of Commerce's US Military Contracting Forum II will be held on November 16th, 2012. Registration for the event is $35. Forum begins at 8AM (registration), 9AM (first speaker) and ends at 5:00PM.
Participants can avail of a special forum hotel rate ($69+10%) at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel (670)328-2233 and special forum Saipan/Tinian flight rate of ($20) via Star Marianas Air (670)433-9996. **FORUM SPONSORSHIP is also still available - contact phil@shermanpacific.com for more information.**

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HEALTH-WALK
Join us this SATURDAY morning, NOVEMBER 17, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY: Life Walk with PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 7:30am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field – Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

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please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

TO PREVENT END OF MEDICARE PROVIDER AGREEMENT

'Fitial can help release funds for CHC'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said Monday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial can help the immediate release of loan money from the Marianas Public Land Trust to help the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. correct deficiencies at the hospital and avoid the termination of its Medicare provider agreement with the U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

But the Fitial administration does not agree with Deleon Guerrero, who has been among those calling for the governor to step down now or be impeached in January 2013.

Deleon Guerrero said, "The governor is in a position to help the hospital with its funding through MPLT."

"I think CHC ought to be given more leeway for the repayment, maybe one or two years before starting to pay back CHC so that it can address the immediate critical needs and allow CHC to improve its collection efforts. If this funding can be provided immediately to CHC, they can buy the equipment and hire needed medical staff. The infusion of money will meet the critical needs of the hospital to prevent it from being de-certified," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, however, said, "MPLT is holding on to the money until the corporation submits some documents as a party to the loan agreement."

"The trustees have a fiduciary duty to protect the interests of MPLT. It makes no sense for the trustees, or even the governor, to outright approve the loan without conditions. In the end, if the corporation is unable to repay the loan, you'd basically have the same people again blaming it on the governor," Demapan said.

The governor told reporters on Sunday that he is asking U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta for funding and technical assistance in addressing CHC's concerns.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said CHC's problems are not only financial in nature but also management issues.

He earlier said that "the light has finally turned on in Juan Babauta's head. And I hope he sees it that he needs to fix this. This is about the health needs of our people here, it's the only hospital we have, it would be a crying shame if clinics have certification and the hospital doesn't." Babauta is CHC's chief executive officer.

Deleon Guerrero also said the 17th House leadership can always call for a session if legislation is needed to help CHC deal with its immediate needs.

"If they're going to wait for the passage of the fat tax bill, it may be too late; the hospital may have already been de-certified by then," he added.

CMS issued two letters to CHC on Nov. 9, including a notice of termination from Medicare on Dec. 3 unless CHC addresses the problem areas identified, and another one lists the specific deficiencies.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) pre-filed a bill levying a new "fat" tax of 5 percent on at least 30 consumer goods, including betel nuts, candies, chocolates, ice cream and edible ice, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, malt beer, wine, soft drinks, cooking oil, and peanut butter and paste.

House Bill 17-320 or the Health Care Impact Tax Act seeks to achieve two goals: Help CHC pay off a $4.58 million debt to MPLT and "combat the growing problem of obesity" in the CNMI.

The bill has yet to be formally introduced because Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) has yet to call a session.

Registered Nurse (RN) – Nurse Case Manager

A Nurse Case Manager position in support of a Saipan based company that conducts medical care and related medical support services for Worker's Compensation Claims globally. This position requires a dedicated, hard working and trustworthy Registered Nurse who has experience in a wide range of administrative, managerial and operational tasks.
Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Obtain medical treatment plans from treating physicians in various countries.
- Review and Approve Treatment plans with Company Medical Doctors.
- Communicate treatment plans and approval with Clients.
- Manage worker's compensation claims.
- Schedules meetings, as required.
- Prepare and update Claimant medical schedule.
- Prepare and update Clients of medical status.
- Performs administrative duties such as proofreading, quality control, telephone calls to field case managers and clients to ensure that treatment plan is followed and updated.
- Prepare medical reports for clients.
- Provide medical expertise to Company personnel as needed

Qualifications and Skills:

- U.S. Citizen, or U.S. Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder).
- A four-year Nursing degree from an accredited U.S. institution (Foreign Institution may be acceptable).
- Current Registered Nurse certification.
- Five years nursing work experience.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Experience in Worker's Compensation medical Claims
- Experience in working with Insurance Companies as it relates to medical care approvals.
- Demonstrates knowledge of various computer applications (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook etc.) and office machinery (e.g. fax, scanner, and printer).
- Ability to handle multiple priorities, work efficiently and meet deadlines.
- Ability to think creatively.
- Ability to follow specific instructions on various cases.
- Ability to work in a team environment.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Ability to maintain case confidentiality.
- Knowledge of insurance industry is helpful.
- Demonstrates cultural sensitivity and experience in working in a cross-cultural environment.

Work hours 9:00 am – 6:00 p.m. Salary commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants are invited to send your detailed resume stating personal particulars, qualification, employment history, remuneration expected and contact number to:

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Director of Administration
Emmie Kaur
ekaur@tacticor.com

For more information, you may visit us at - http://www.tacticor.com

Fund trustee *ad litem*'s bill reduced slightly

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano has asked the court for an adjustment in the service fee he initially billed the pension agency after finding some mathematical errors in the first calculation.

In the four-page document filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Razzano said there was a mistake in calculating the number of hours of work he performed in September. He said the first filing totaled 62.55 hours but the correct number is 62.35 hours. This .20-hour reduction translates to $50. Razzano also waived the Westlaw charge of $121.33, which resulted in a total adjustment of $171.33.

Based on the new payment request, the *ad litem* is demanding a total fee of $60,949.83—a slight reduction from the original payment request of $61,121.16.

Razzano had initially asked for $61,121.16 for services rendered the Fund covering the months from September to November 2012.

"Having pointed out these mathematical errors, the trustee requests that the court issue an order acknowledging the adjustment of $171.33 and requiring the payment of $60,949.83 immediately by the Fund, and that such payment be billed or taxed to the government with interest," stated Razzano in his filing.

The CNMI government earlier filed a motion for reconsideration and objections to the trustee *ad litem*'s request for compensation. Razzano earlier disclosed to the court that the Fund has an identified source to pay for his compensation, which is the remaining balance in the Fund's administrative budget for fiscal year 2012. Using this funding source, he said, will not impede the agency's operations.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood earlier ruled that the CNMI government shall be responsible for compensation and expenses for Razzano and all persons or entities employed or contracted by the trustee *ad litem* in carrying out his duties.

Addresses of enlisted personnel sought

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Saipan representatives, Gina Hazen, third from right, and Maria Aguon, second from right, donate a $500 check to Operation Homefront Support committee members at the BOS branch office in Susupe, Tuesday, Nov. 13. OHS is scheduled to ship more than 200 holiday care packages to active duty service members from the CNMI on Nov. 24.

The 5th Annual CNMI Operation Homefront Support 2012 is on a mission to get as many updated addresses of CNMI enlisted servicemen and servicewomen who are stationed around the world.

These enlisted personnel can be on reserve or active duty and friends or family members can send in their addresses by calling 28 SHARE (74273) or email operationhomefront@pticom.com

"We sent around 250 packages to the CNMI enlisted last year as we hope to do the same or more this year," said Nola Hix of Xerox Corp., who is spearheading this year's project. "We are excited and look forward to the community's support as these efforts are something small but go a long way to show our military brothers and sisters we care.

"We've already had a few requests from the enlisted for small CNMI flags, and most especially Saipan maps so they could show people where they're from. We also hope to place I LOVE SAIPAN imprinted gifts, local music or CD's, along with the usual local magazines, newspapers, and edible local treats that are placed in the boxes every year." ***(PR)***

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License.
- At least two or five years experience.
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

(01) Front Office Manager
- At least over five years experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- College graduate
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedure and diagnosis
- Must be certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills, spread sheet and general accounting skills.

(01) Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician
- At least five years experience or related field
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology
- Must be over five years experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Experience/ Knowledge with Practice Partner software in electronic health records usage.
- Licensed by the medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI

(01) Health Clinic System Manager
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's degree, or equivalent.
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintenance of all Company's computer systems to include computer hardware, computer software, computer network and advance server skills.
- Overseas medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Overseas administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with medical and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.

(01) Clinic/Yard Maintenance
- Preferred skills and experience
- Building Construction/Renovation experience
- Experience solar maintenance pv models
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Please submit applications or resume to Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health Clinic at Chalan Kiya, Saipan or call Connie or Judy at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124 for more information.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(04) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years' hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified nephrology Nurse (CNN) – Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

(01) Licensed Practical Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-LPN and current CNMI LPN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- One to four years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resusciation.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

(04) Building Maintenance & Repair
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

(01) Water Treatment and Hemodialysis Technician
- The water treatment technician must be able to perform a number of tasks which may at first glance not appear difficult but require a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain the system. the ideal employee will possess:
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory of fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems.
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit.
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities.
- Be familiar with the safety and life safety policies.
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency test for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II preferred.
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing and hemodialysis techniques.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with electricity.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels for heomodialysis.
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing and hemodialysis techniques especially when working with pvc.
- Extensive experience of disposal of hazard waste per protocol.
- In service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Solar panel maintenance/construction with solester inverter experience.
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned.

(02) Commercial Cleaner
- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, polishers, buffers, etc.
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings.
- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required.
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste, and other disposable materials.
- Must handle various cleaning solvents, chemicals, etc.
- Damp dust furniture , light fixtures, window, etc.
- Empty trash containers daily.
- Wet mop floors and bathrooms daily. Damp mop all corridor floors, lobby, and others daily.
- Report any needed repairs immediately.
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc, periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby.
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping services
- Must be able to work flexible hours.
- Must have own transportation.
- Is required to clean employee's house prior to and post occupancy.
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner the Business, Dr's., Accounting, Dietician, and Clinic Manager's Offices.

Interested applicants must submit an application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please call 234-2902 and ask for Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola.

Police report three death incidents

On Nov. 7, 2012, at about 1:08am, police and EMS responded to a medical emergency at a residence in Upper Miha. A 42-year-old Chuukese female was found with no pulse and not breathing. Medics applied CPR to the victim and she was transported by ambulance to the Commonwealth Health Center. The victim was pronounced dead by Dr. Florence Schenker at 2:01am. The victim had a history of asthma attacks.

On Nov. 7, 2012, at about 3:19am, police and EMS responded to a medical emergency at a business establishment on Beach Road, Garapan. A 48-year-old, Filipino male employee of the establishment was found with no pulse and not breathing. CPR was attempted by the responding medics upon arrival and during transport to CHC. The male was pronounced dead by Dr. Florence Shenker at 3:36am.

On Nov. 11, 2012, at about 2:32pm, police responded to a collapsed person incident at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. A 49-year-old Filipino male collapsed while unloading a container. The victim was transported to CHC were he was pronounced dead by Dr. Martin Rohringer at 2:30pm. Cause of death was heart attack.

In all three deaths there were no signs of foul play and cause of death was listed as natural causes. ***(DPS)***

TWPI to stage *Working* musical this weekend

Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands will stage the musical *Working* this Friday and Saturday at 7pm and on Sunday at 3pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Working is based on the popular novel by Studs Terkel. In 1974, Studs Terkel published a novel based on interviews with American workers from all walks of life. The musical appeared on Broadway, adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso. Saipan students presented a version of the show as one of their earliest dramatic endeavors. But that is not the show that is being staged now.

In 2007 and 2008, Studs Terkel conducted more interviews with more workers and a much more updated and crisper production was created on the Chicago stage. It is this latest version that TWPI students will bring to the stage.

The action revolves around the actual words of the American workers, which are woven into monologues, scenes, and songs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ray Mark Denora and Ann Angeles rehearse with student director Kristine Valencia for the upcoming production of the Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands called *Working*. They will be staging this musical this weekend at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Much of life as a working person is exposed and explored, in amusing and poignant scenes. The thoughts and feelings of workers are familiar, because this is who we are—as part of the American workforce, we share this story in our own lives.

The TWPI students, from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Marianas Baptist Academy, reprise their roles with the insight of youth and the words from the mouths of experience. From the oldest profession to the current workforce, we see and hear an insider's view of life in American labor.

Students on stage include Anne Angeles, Harold Aranda, Mary Grace Barro, Darren Cajipo, Kelly Demapan, Ray Mark Denora, Devonee Dotts, Sean Ecal, Jorem Guardian, Janlan Imperial, Lee Ann Jastilla, Soon Hyung Kwon, Bruce Li, Eloise Lopez, Kaiza Lucido, Annabel Manzo, Jenella Nelmida, Carlene Patris, Rolando Sangalang, and Ericka Serrano. They are directed by students Matthew Lopez and Kristine Valencia.

Tickets cost $8 for adults and $5 for students. They are available from all cast members and at the door. ***(PR)***

SPC introduces new approaches to climate change

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Regional government delegates meeting in Noumea this week at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community will discuss the new approaches to climate change adaptation that the organization is using to assist Pacific Island countries and territories tackle the 21st century challenge.

"Climate change is projected to increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters, and affect infrastructure, transport, marine ecosystems, agricultural food production, and health, as well as access to safe drinking water," said Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, SPC Director-General.

SPC is taking a cross-cutting approach to climate change adaptation, recognizing that tackling just one aspect of an issue is unlikely to lead to long-term sustainable solutions.

For example, a "ridge-to-reef" approach being tested in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands, combines work across several sectors, including agriculture, forestry, water, infrastructure, fisheries and health, together with the efforts of landowning communities, the government, other development partners, and regional agencies.

Another project the organization is implementing in Vava'u, Tonga, integrates land-based water management elements with coastal zone management and near-shore fisheries.

SPC

A Secretariat of the Pacific Community staff carries out a survey of barrier reef topography on Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

To work effectively, this approach needs commitment from national-level stakeholders and willingness on the part of government ministries and communities to work together. The organization is also working with countries and development partners to design and implement integrated, "one team" methods.

The 42nd Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations, the annual meeting of SPC"s governing body, is being held from Nov. 12 to 16, 2012, at its headquarters in Noumea. ***(SPC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 14, 2000

DPH to monitor PCB-related cancer cases

The Department of Public Health will establish a disease surveillance system which will monitor cancer cases on the island specifically in Tanapag village. Tanapag residents claim that many villagers have died of cancer which they said may be due to high levels of contamination with polychlorinated biphenyl. Toxicologist Scot Sudweeks said the Agency for Substances and Disease Registry may be able to assist in looking for financial and technical support to DPH.

Group says tax bill will not benefit low-income families

Citing the tax credit too high, members of the Coalition of Private Schools is not keen on supporting a House initiative that seeks to grant tuition tax credit of $3,000 to parents who enroll their children in elementary or secondary private schools of their choice. Coalition president Scott Norman said that although the organization favors the intent of the legislation, majority of the members believe the credit is too high and will not benefit families who belong to the low-income brackets. "Parents who can't even afford to send their kids to private schools will not benefit in any way. Only the higher income families will," said Mr. Norman.

Nov. 14, 2002

Mayor wants OPA probe on local funds

Rota Mayor Benjamin S. Manglona has asked the Office of the Public Auditor to look into the Finance Department's handling of local revenue accounts, saying it has been inexplicably withholding local revenue that should have gone to Rota. Relatedly, Manglona also appealed to Gov. Juan N. Babauta to convene a "Governor's Council" to resolve this issue of the central government failing to put into Rota's accounts money that are Rota's by right and by law. In a letter dated Tuesday, November 12, Manglona told Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan that the central government continues to fail in honoring Rota's appropriations for local expenditures.

Legislator cited over protected bats

The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife imposed a $5,000-fine against Rep. Daniel Quitugua for bringing to Saipan six Mariana fruit bats-a protected species-from Rota. The congressman was given 14 days to settle his obligation. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources also said a quarantine officer who allowed Quitugua's entry with the fruit bats may be subjected to disciplinary actions. But the congressman, in an interview, said he just mistakenly brought the fruit bats from his father's home in Rota, thinking that the bag he carried to the airport contained his lobsters.

Nov. 14, 2003

House revives vetoed bills

The House of Representatives yesterday mustered the three-fourths majority required to revive pieces of legislation that Gov. Juan N. Babauta vetoed last week. In its first session following the midterm election, the lower house reintroduced and passed the proposed Tax Code amendment (House Bill 13-355), the Retirement Act (HB 13-356) and the measure to establish the Commonwealth Hospital Corporation (HB 13-357). The three were among the 12 bills Babauta rejected last Friday consistent with the administration's position that "until the question of whether the Senate had the requisite quorum present to conduct business from August 27, 2003 is answered by the Court, the administration cannot know with certainty which bill was constitutionally enacted by the Legislature."

NMC: More than $500K still missing

The Northern Marianas College said that it has accounted for some $527,900 questioned costs cited by the federal authorities for fiscal years 1997 to 2000. At the same time, it has yet to account for some $544,700 in questioned federal money. In an FY 2003 report, NMC financial and administrative services director David Atalig said that $527, 937 of the over $1 million questioned costs was "deemed potentially resolved." The remaining amount, $544,730, remains "unresolved" as of Oct. 18, 2003. "Work is still continuing to address the questioned costs related to federal programs raised in the FY 1997 to 2000 audits," said Atalig. Based on the audits covering the four fiscal years, NMC- Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services failed to account for $853,721, while the Upward Program could not justify the use of $218,906.

CHCC, Public Health host 2-day suicide intervention training

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Division of Public Health, in collaboration with Behavioral Health Solutions, recently hosted a training for certification in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, on Saipan to help build capacity for suicide prevention.

This training was held for two days at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, completing the ninth ASIST training these past two years in the CNMI, funded this month through the support of the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

This event was in collaborations with community partners for prevention and awareness and annual health observance supported by SAMHSA that celebrates the work community organizations and individuals do year-round to prevent substance abuse and promote mental, emotional, and behavioral well-being. National Prevention Week is this week, May 20-26, 2012 and this year's theme is "We are the ones. How are you taking action?" To find out more check it out at: http://www.samhsa.gov/preventionweek/?from=carousel&position=1&date=05042012 National Prevention Week is this week, May 20-26, 2012 and this year's theme is "We are the ones. How are you taking action?" To find out more check it out at: http://www.samhsa.gov/preventionweek/?from=carousel&position=1&date=05042012

The training began on Thursday, Nov. 8, and continued through Friday, Nov. 9, 2012. The two trainers—Rebecca Robles, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program coordinator, and Jennifer Maratita of Behavioral Health Solutions—are registered trainers through LivingWorks Education.

This registered certification of the two CNMI-based trainers was made possible through the Substance Abuse and Prevention Grant and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Prevention and Training Branch of Guam that was held in 2010 to promote suicide prevention efforts of the Micronesian region.

Eleven participants completed this training and to date totaling over 190 certified interventionists though this projects effort. Participants included community partners such as the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Division of Public Health, Public School System, Medical Associates of the Pacific, and Karidat.

To participate in upcoming PATH supported events or membership participation contact Evelynn Tenorio at 323-4060 or eternorio@cgcspn.net.

According to LivingWorks Education, the ASIST training is the most widely used, acclaimed, and researched suicide intervention skills training in the world. The benefits of the ASIST T4T is that the community sustains locally trained trainers that can certify additional caregivers on how to respond and help someone with suicidal thoughts or may be at risk of attempting suicide.

The CHCC and the Division of Public Health is currently taking steps toward increasing community-based collaboration that will result in more successful suicide prevention activities and early intervention efforts. The Behavioral Health Solutions has current plans that include an additional ASIST certification training in mid-December for various agencies and members of the community. Space is limited so contact LivingworksCNMI@gmail.com for more information. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, have their picture taken with their certificates on Saipan.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0328**
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
BENJAMIN B. SEMAN and DOROTHY T. SEMAN,	:	
Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 010 K 360, containing an area of 954 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, dated August 19, 1987, the original of which was recorded as Document No. 87-2910 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan; and

Lot H-220-2 (part of original A.H. 220), containing an area of 1,6666 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2168/88, the original of which was recorded September 22, 1988, as Document No. 88-2949, at the office of the Commonwealth Recorders, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 14, 20112, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained form the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of October, 2012:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

False distress expends USCG resources at east Oahu

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard is asking the public's help Friday, in locating the source of recent false distress calls that have been occurring mainly on the east end of Oahu.

The most recent call occurred Tuesday, and was received at approximately 4pm by Coast Guard watchstanders in the Sector Honolulu Command Center. The call was a child's voice saying, "Hello, hello, hello, hello. Mayday, mayday."

The voice sounded very similar, if not identical, to the voice heard on other recent radio calls that were eventually suspended as probable hoaxes after no source of distress could be located.

An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, was launched to investigate Tuesday's call. No indications of distress were located during the search. One vessel was located in the vicinity, but did not corroborate any mayday calls or signs of distress. The search was suspended at approximately 7:10pm Tuesday.

"This may not occur to the hoax caller, but people could die as a result of prank calls," said Commander Steve Wheeler, Sector Honolulu's Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator. "Every call received by the Coast Guard is treated as an actual distress case. So while our boats and aircraft are out searching in response to these types of fake calls, another mariner, who truly is in distress, may not get the timely assistance they require."

Knowingly communicating a false distress or causing the Coast Guard to attempt to save lives and property when no help is needed is a felony. The penalties include prison time, criminal fines, civil fines and reimbursement to the Coast Guard for the ample costs incurred in responding to the false call.

Mariners are encouraged to take steps to prevent the occurrence of fraudulent calls by removing radios or locking them up when not in use, teaching children appropriate use, and reporting suspected hoax callers to the Coast Guard tip line at 1-800-264-5980. ***(USCG)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2012, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Office Located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a) Call to Order
- b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

Kannat Tabla Quarry – CRM Permit no. SMS-2012-X-061
- a. Permit Application summary by CRMO
- b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
- c. Permit Application Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ
Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-005
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of office supplies for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Packet may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $50.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 21, 2012**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **October 25, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this bid must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 30, 2012** to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email-christie.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-007
AUTOMOBILE RENTAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for Automobile Rental Services on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Packet may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $50.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Automobile Rental Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 19, 2012**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **October 26, 2012 at 1:00 PM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this bid must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 29, 2012** to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email-christie.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Let he who is without sin cast the first stone…

CAIRO, Egypt—The sudden resignation of David Petraeus as CIA director over an affair makes me very sad, and quite angry. There's something wrong with a political system that destroys men of his talent over a very human mistake.

Yes, I know he showed bad judgment and may have considered it a matter of honor to step down. But I think his resignation should have been rejected. Can our system really afford to lose him and upend the CIA, yet again, over such a peccadillo? Do we really have such talent to spare?

Petraeus was not accused of any security breach, and—as the whole world now knows—the affair was discovered only tangentially through another FBI investigation. This is now an unfortunate situation he must resolve with his wife. But why, at a time when the CIA is crucial in anti-terrorism operations, and Petraeus so knowledgeable on Afghanistan, Pakistan, Africa and the Middle East, should the country lose his skills because of a personal matter?

Watching from Cairo, where guns and jihadis are passing through from next door Libya and making the Sinai into a new terrorist nexis, I wonder how Petraeus' exit will affect the efforts to curb this problem? Or to deal with the influx of jihadis into Syria, or drone attacks in Pakistan, etc. etc.

Who can be surprised that, having served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade, under incredible pressure, this disciplined general might have slipped up? Had he compromised security it would be one thing. But if not, why should the whole country pay the price for his marital sin?

The perils of false purity became clear during the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton. Supposedly that mess was precipitated because he lied, but in reality it was a political vendetta. It backfired when many of the legislators who decried the president's immorality were revealed to have committed similar or worse acts in private.

Shouldn't we have learned to be wary of penalizing our leaders for sins of the flesh?

News reports say the Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper asked Petraeus to resign, and he agreed. I don't know the details. But I do know that even those who criticized Petraeus as overly ambitious recognize the sacrifices he made for his country. My many trips to Iraq left no doubt in my mind that the counterinsurgency strategy he promoted there prevented an even more grisly civil war, and ended the heaviest fighting. In Afghanistan, he did the best possible with the hand he was dealt.

Stephen Kinzer has an op-ed in the *New York Times* Saturday detailing the serial affairs of Allen Dulles, CIA chief from 1953 to 1961, in the pre-Internet days when such behavior wasn't reported. Dulles' compulsive womanizing probably did jeopardize his work, unlike Petraeus' folly. But reading this piece made me yearn for the days when national leaders were judged on performance, and their private lives remained just that.

Obama's second act

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Second terms have rarely been kind to American presidents.

Our last two-term leader, George W. Bush, ended his tenure with a financial crash so disastrous that his own party has tried to erase him from memory. Bush's predecessor, Bill Clinton, was more successful, but he still spent much of his second term enmeshed in a sex scandal and battling impeachment.

Even our greatest modern presidents had rocky second terms: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan are all revered more for what they accomplished in their first four years than for their later acts.

What goes wrong in a second term? Plenty.

The soaring ideas and idealism that brought a president victory the first time yield to narrower, more experienced calculations of what he can achieve in practice the second time around. The aides who helped him succeed move on to other jobs, and their successors in the second term often look like the B-team.

A second-term president is a lame duck from election day on; if Congress didn't fear him much before, it will soon fear him even less. And if there's any scandal lurking in an administration's closets, the second term is often when it tumbles into view. Richard M. Nixon's Watergate is the most famous case, but it was only one of many: Reagan had Iran-Contra; Clinton had Monica Lewinsky.

Can Barack Obama escape this iron rule of history? Perhaps—but only if he finds a way to turn his own weakness into an asset.

On the surface, the political foundation of Obama's second term looks weaker than those of his predecessors. All the others—Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Nixon, Reagan, Clinton and Bush—won more votes running for reelection than they had the first time. They succeeded in enlarging their coalitions, not shrinking them. Some won their second terms with landslide margins: Nixon and Roosevelt with 61 percent of the popular vote.

Obama doesn't have that kind of overwhelming mandate. In 2008, Obama won 28 states and 53 percent of the popular vote. This year, once the dust settles, he appears likely to win 26 states, with a near tie in the popular vote.

The electorate might well have fired him—except it never warmed to his opponent.

The kind of campaign Obama waged didn't build much of a mandate either. His campaign slogan was almost content-free: "Forward." Much of his pitch was negative, a promise not to enact the conservative changes his opponent was proposing. "We know what change looks like, and what he's selling ain't it," Obama said in his combative stump speeches.

His positive agenda—and he did have one, contrary to what some critics say—was mostly a plea for a chance to "finish the job," to complete the unfinished work of the first term. But as a program for his second term, it's markedly less ambitious than the expansive goals he listed four years ago.

In his most serious policy discussion of the last month—his interview with the Des Moines Register—Obama said his top priorities would be economic growth, deficit reduction and investment in infrastructure, education and energy technology. Those goals are both less ambitious and less specific than the ones set out in his first term, and liberals are likely to see them as a retreat. But with a hostile House of Representatives, it's not at all clear that the president will be able to make much progress even with a more modest set of goals.

Like Mitt Romney, Obama had little choice but to turn toward the center in the final weeks of the presidential campaign. No matter how strong his base of Democratic voters, Obama needed compromise-loving independents to stick with him too.

And Obama has spent plenty of time in the last few weeks talking with Clinton, a supremely pragmatic president who regularly enraged his party's liberal base whenever he thought a lunge to the right might help him pass legislation through a Republican-held Congress.

"I may be the only person in America, but I am far more enthusiastic about President Obama this time than I was four years ago," Clinton said as he campaigned for the president last week.

Why? "He has the right philosophy," Clinton said: "Cooperation works better than conflict. Practical problem-solving is better than ideological extremism."

Two factors will determine what kind of second term Obama has: One is what lessons Republicans draw from their stinging defeat; the other is what lessons Obama takes from the narrowness of his victory.

If we're lucky, we will find that we elected a different Obama from the one who won the presidency four years ago—not just a grayer Obama but a wiser one too.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reinvestment: Anybody?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

Faithful continuing students of economics are fully aware of what healthy investments do to countries worldwide. We even meticulously tread where investments have gone from nearby Asian neighbors and across the country, which country gets more of it and why. Across the fruited plain, "Technology hiring is a big contributor for growth in the Bay Area and Raleigh while Texas cities, Oklahoma, and Salt Lake are benefiting from strong oil and gas activity. The rebound in manufacturing helped to land Detroit in the top ten while healthcare continues to thrive in Phoenix."

San Jose, California leads investment as the capital of Silicon Valley and has a large concentration of tech-related jobs in high-technology engineering, computer, and microprocessor companies. This year it created some 64,000 new jobs.

Houston, Texas, created about 165,000 new jobs. It is "likely to lead in terms of job creation because of its diverse economy and growing sectors such as energy with oil and gas, transportation with increasing air traffic and the port of Houston with booming export activity, and health care. After 2011, the job growth in the Houston Metro area is likely to rise 2 to 2.5 percent annually."

Then there's Austin, Texas, which established 50K jobs this year. It has experienced "high private-sector employment gains for 84 of the past 100 months, earning it the ranking of a top market in the United States for long-term growth," according to PRWeb. The city is expanding its tech sector and "having the University of Texas there is a tremendous asset," Bernard Weinstein, an economist at Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business, told Kirk Ladendorf at Statesman.com. Eight other cities came close behind as they got rid of more taxes, fees, strangling regulations, and other impediments that raise the cost of doing business at home.

This is exactly what the CNMI must use as a model. It needs to find out what San Jose and Austin did that lured in more investors than other places. But this task begins by our returning to the drawing board to repeal punitive and counterproductive policies that have forced economic contraction in substantive ways.

In short, we must create a healthy investment climate for investors to begin looking at these isles as their permanent home in lasting partnership!

■ ■ ■ ■

Canoe of Tears

However the differing views in the election results, what issue(s) forced the repudiation of Republicans is clear: call for impeachment (corruption) and the dire need to fix the economic meltdown. Other issues include the impending bankruptcy of the Retirement Fund, Medicaid, medical referral, underemployment and unemployment, and CHC's likely loss of millions of dollars in Medicaid and Medicare funds if major deficiencies aren't fixed. All these issues collide with the dire straits of families throughout the islands. Most voters walked to polling places with lips dripping with vile due to the failure of this administration on nearly every front, especially family pocketbooks. They aren't ready to repeat with failure!

Even more troubling is the fast spreading view among our children graduating from college this year, saying skip the islands for at least another decade. "Not ready to ride aboard the NMI's Canoe of Tears." Thus, most have opted to do professional studies for the next two years or so. Would they ever return when jobs and opportunities abound in the U.S. mainland?

Somehow we've lost it all. Is there hope ahead? Or would others hop on the CNMI Canoe of Tears and head out of the Tanapag Harbor? If they did partake in the obvious brain drain, would they ever return home? What would be compelling reasons to come back home?

If the economy remains in triple depression, most would stay where opportunities grant them the perfect environment to raise their children in a decent setting and opportunities for continuing education. It would be a whale of loss to the islands losing its best minds so triggered and nurtured by a runaway economic meltdown this administration failed to resuscitate. There goes our investment in the education of our children!

■ ■ ■ ■

Economic uncertainty

Eyeballing the economy because of the lack of a set of plans doesn't grant policymakers the appropriate tool to use as a guide formulating constructive laws to spur investments. It turns the issue into a moving target, completely rudderless and bouncing around heedlessly in a sea of uncertainty.

It relegates projecting revenue generation solely to "actual" collection versus the opportunity to estimate what the CNMI could reasonably expect in revenues. It compromises putting an organized fiscal plan that includes amortizing revenue to retire some $2.6 billion in debts that doesn't include deficit spending or future debts on the pension obligation bond.

This mindset does nothing to grow the local economy, given all the uncertainty found upon a pile of uncertainties under this administration. It means a totally compromised economic future for our children. Nobody is there to provide leadership on this vital score. Hello, anybody home?

Island economies are difficult in the sense that it's resource-poor, thus the extra effort required of planners to think almost completely outside the box. For all we know, perhaps it's time to revert to farming and fishing—sectors that did very well before the war. It seems a treasure we've ignored for so long. It's called economic diversification.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unjust justice

I was reading an article in the *Saipan Tribune* titled "Illegal gambling case vs businessman dismissed." What concerns me was the outcome of this case. That's why I could say in my own opinion that it is an unjust justice.

The case with its charge of 116 counts waited for five years and yet the Office of the Attorney General decided to drop the case with prejudice, just like that. In my opinion, a reason for the attorney general to dismiss the case is if he or she cannot prove his or her case beyond a reasonable doubt or there is not enough evidence to proceed with the case. But with the $11,933 seized during the raid and the 116 charges slapped on the defendant was a shame. I hope that this matter is not another corruption issue. Just because the defendant did not want to take the $11,933 cash that was confiscated during the raid, the attorney general came up the most logical solution and decided to dismiss the case. In other words, money talks and criminal walks.

Let me make an example similar to this situation. John Doe is a suspect in a rape case, so the authorities execute a search warrant from a judge to raid John Doe's house. During the raid the authorities find $2 million in John Doe's closet. The authorities confiscate the $2 million. Later, after two years, the attorney general says to John Doe, "Let's make a deal, we will take the $2 million cash that we confiscated from your home and we will dismiss your case with prejudice." So, readers, aren't I correct?

Let's try another way of this example. The lawyer of John Doe asks the attorney general to settle on a deal to take the $2 million cash and dismiss his client's case with prejudice. Isn't it true that this situation could be a possibility with the outcome of this case? My question now is, what happened to Rep. Froilan Tenorio? I would like to ask the Noble Nine to look into this matter if it is a logical deal.

Ray Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

No one is indispensable

The perplexing disparate impact of the recent election is that some ruling classes could not internalize facing reality, and they still are convinced that the electorate's overwhelming sweep of the elitist connected with the governor has no effect and command. If we are to hold an election to impeach the governor such as a "recall election," the electorate would favor the recall of the governor.

Now we are back at the forefront of a new premise in that the governor is waving the white flag and now leading a modified civil discourse on all the things that brought our situational outburst. It may be a protracted process that will ensue from here on but what is clear is that the overwhelming majority of the people of the CNMI want a new beginning for their government and a new governor at the helm of the CNMI. I would say that continuing with the status quo would be a slap on the intelligence and will of the majority of voters that want to make the change in governing, and the governor could continue pleading his case but the people want his presence out and the new one should move in, regardless of the complications that one may rationalize as bad for the CNMI. You see, no one is indispensable, and that would include a governor.

And so I say this, "To the people of alien tongue you will look no more, the people of obscure speech, hammering in a language not understood." (Isaiah 34:19) Let the change process begin its course and move on, that is the walk and talk desired by the electorate and, without arguing, it is a well-settled mindset in the minds and wishes of the majority of the indigenous people of the CNMI.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

The CNMI receives an A- this election

The CNMI received an A- on its election grade. Although the three blind mice are still in the Legislature (Felicidad Ogumoro, Teresita Santos, and George Camacho), majority of Fitial's puppets are gone. They are now lining up at Fitial's office for their fixed government job that he promised them.

The CNMI did great by voting yes to an elected attorney general. Two years from now, we will have an AG who will answer to the people instead of to the governor.

When Fitial is impeached, don't feel bad. Fitial doesn't feel bad when he fires government employees, so why should we when he is removed? Besides, Fitial is doing nothing but ruining the CNMI. Impeach Fitial so he can focus more on being the GOP chairman than on fixing the CNMI. That is what he already does currently.

Congratulations to Obama and Kilili!

Antonio Aldan
Kagman, Saipan

Success of Tinian elections

This is in response to the article "Independents rule Tinian; municipality welcomes outcome" (*Saipan Tribune,* Nov. 8, 2012). We the residents of Tinian in the CNMI and the U.S. mainland would like to congratulate senator-elect Francisco M. Borja, Rep. Trenton Connor, Tinian Municipal Council chair Estevan Cabrera, Tinian Municipal Council member-elect Antonio Borja, and Tinian Municipal Council member-elect Reynaldo Cing. We hope that our Tinian Delegation and our municipal leadership will work together for the good of our residents in the coming future.

We received phone calls from Tinian residents throughout the United States and they were questioning Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's comments about the 2012 mid-term elections on Tinian. According to the article, Mayor Dela Cruz attributes this year's success to the significant support received by his administration from Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas and his family who were in the other political side during the last election. Mr. Dela Cruz's assumption was incorrect. Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, Rep. Trenton Connor, senator-elect Francisco Borja, and many other Tinian residents on Tinian and the United States contributed to the success of this year's election on Tinian. The residents of Tinian worked together as a team to make the Second Senatorial District election successful. *Si yu'us ma'ase* to our Tinian elected officials for constantly keeping us updated and coordinating with us on the election process for the 2012 midterm election.

Cameron Taitano
Odessa, Texas

Let us move on

The people have spoken, this is no time to slack; we have to be vigilant and pay attention to things happening around us that is not in keeping with good governance.

We asked for honest, fair, responsive, and transparent government and that should be what we get. The way we get in to demand for it. We made a great leap this election, let us continue in that direction and not get distracted in anyway. May God bless all of us so that we have the courage and strength to go on. We want a true government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Fe Y. Calixterio
As Terlaje, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

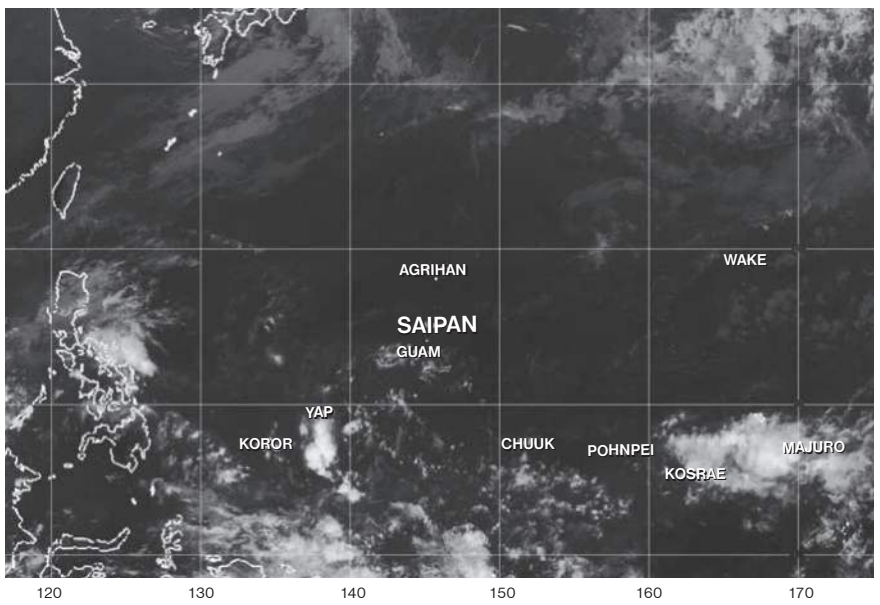
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲47	▼28
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼74
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼52
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
New York	Showers	▲51	▼35
Osaka	Windy	▲56	▼48
Paris	Sunny	▲52	▼36
Pusan	Windy	▲57	▼40
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼54
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲47	▼34
Tokyo	Sunny	▲61	▼44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲50	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches southeastward from Mindanao across 7N130E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap and Koror at 3N141E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are along and south of the trough to beyond the equator. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are southeast of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 9N139E to 6N139E. A surface trough is south of Chuuk from 5N150E to 3N157E. Scattered showers are within 100 miles of the trough axis. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from near Kosrae across the Marshall Islands between 9N and 4N from 162E to 180. A shear line extends southwestward from the date line at 23N to just north of Wake Island at 21N166E to end near 18N156E. Isolated thunderstorms are near 24N180 while cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 250 miles northwest of the shear line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:18 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	7:24 AM	7:05 PM
Friday	8:28 AM	8:08 PM
Saturday	9:28 AM	9:11 PM
Sunday	10:23 AM	10:12 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCT. 27, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)

UZ608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:10pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)

OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	11:25pm	7:55am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Greece to get 2 more years but delay to bailout

BRUSSELS (AP)—Greece's international creditors failed to agree Monday on how to get the country's bailout program back on track and put off again the release of the next batch loans that Athens is using to pay its day-to-day bills.

However, European finance ministers meeting in Brussels did decide to give Greece two more years until 2016 to reform its economy—one of the conditions of its bailout package. But they could not agree on how to pay for the extension or when the country's debts would reach a manageable level.

"Today a huge step has been made in order to secure the program on Greece, in order to enhance the confidence on the eurozone, in order to find a strong and definite solution for this question, which has lasted for more than two years now," said French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici, as he left the meeting of finance ministers from the 17 countries that use the euro. "We couldn't do more today."

The European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission, which is the EU's executive arm, have twice agreed to bail out Greece, pledging a total of (EURO)240 billion in rescue loans. The country has received about (EURO)150 billion of those loans so far, in exchange for making tough budget cuts and sweeping reforms to its labor market and bureaucracy.

AP

A municipal worker participating in a anti-austerity rally sits in front of the National Bank of Greece building, underneath graffiti reading in Greek "All to the streets yesterday", in central Athens, Friday, Nov. 9, 2012.

The main aim of the bailout program is to right Greece's economy and get it to a point where it no longer relies on international aid and can independently raise money on the debt markets. The bailout program was supposed to steadily reduce Greece's debt until, in 2020, it reached 120 percent of its annual gross domestic product—a level generally considered sustainable. But it's been clear for months now that the country is way off track from achieving that goal—although how far off track is a point of contention among its lenders.

As IMF chief Christine Lagarde left the meeting, she insisted that Greece should still be aiming to bring its debts to the 120 percent level by the original target of 2020. But Jean-Claude Juncker, who chairs the meetings of the eurozone finance ministers said that the deadline would likely be changed to 2022.

"What matters at the end of the day is the sustainability of the Greek debt, so that country can be back on its feet and re-access the private market in due course," Lagarde said.

The question of debt sustainability is as important as it is divisive: If Greece's debts can't be reduced to a level where the country can pay them down, then the billions of euros in bailout loans given to Greece will have been wasted.

It's taken on even more importance in recent weeks because Germany has insisted that until the question is resolved, Greece can't receive its next (EURO)31.5 billion ($40 billion) batch of its bailout loans. The country has a bond payment coming due this week, but EU Finance Commissioner Olli Rehn said Athens would be able to roll it over and didn't need the loan installment.

The issue appears to have ultimately derailed Monday's meeting, and so the ministers will meet again Nov. 20 in order to release the next batch of bailout loans.

Still, politicians sought to spin the meeting as having made some progress, especially after Greece pushed two tough bills through its parliament in recent days - one with a raft of reforms, the other with a stringent 2013 budget.

"Words have been backed by deeds," Rehn said after the meeting, as he also sought to underscore how many sacrifices Greece has made.

Rupert Murdoch gleeful at BBC debacle in Britain

LONDON (AP)—Few seem to be enjoying the management meltdown at the venerable BBC more than Rupert Murdoch, the News Corp. chief whose rival British newspapers have been caught up in their own lengthy, embarrassing and expensive phone-hacking scandal.

But the troubles for both media organizations highlight that the news industry in Britain is at rock-bottom in public esteem, and could face increased restrictions from the government of Prime Minister David Cameron, which appears convinced it has been unable to police itself.

The British Broadcasting Corp. has moved into full-bore damage control since it retracted mistaken allegations by its marquee news program that a politician sexually abused children. That serious mistake followed the BBC's earlier failure to report on widespread child sex abuse allegations against one of its biggest stars, the late Jimmy Savile.

"BBC mess gives Cameron golden opportunity (to) properly reorganize great public broadcaster," Murdoch tweeted gleefully Sunday.

The scandal follows several years of turmoil over the phone-hacking scandal, which exploded with the discovery that employees of Murdoch's News of the World tabloid hacked into a kidnapped girl's mobile phone. The scandal widened when scores of celebrities, sports stars and politicians said they, too, had been hacked. The tabloid folded, Murdoch's media paid out millions in compensation and still faces scores of lawsuits. Several news executives have been arrested.

A report due this month from Lord Justice Brian Leveson, based on months of jarring testimony about wrongdoing by Murdoch's reporters and others, may prompt the government to impose statutory regulation on the British print press, which is overseen by an industry watchdog.

Many say the reputation of the British media is at an all-time low.

Deficit talks will test the GOP focus on tax rates

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican leaders say the government can raise tax "revenues" without raising tax "rates." But they have yet to detail how they would pursue it.

The distinction might mean little to Americans who end up with larger tax bills even if their tax rates don't change. This politically tricky trade-off is about to take center stage in negotiations over how to reduce the federal deficit and avoid going over the "fiscal cliff" in just seven weeks.

The White House says wealthy Americans must pay a higher tax rate to help produce more revenue to lower the deficit. Congressional Republicans refuse, and many want tax rates to fall instead. But they say they are open to other means of higher tax collections, which might include limits to itemized deductions.

About one-third of U.S. households itemize deductions rather than take the standard deduction. Some of these itemized deductions, such as the one for mortgage interest payments, are popular and deeply ingrained in the American culture.

Many Republican lawmakers are tip-toeing around the issue. But Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., warns of possibly huge changes affecting millions of people.

Chambliss told the Atlanta Journal Constitution that federal revenues can be increased significantly without raising tax rates, by limiting deductions. But he noted the popularity of the most important deductions, which are granted for mortgage interest, charity gifts and health care costs.

"It can be done, but it's going to require the elimination of almost all- if not all—tax deductions and tax credits," Chambliss said. "That's going to be difficult."

Congress has raised and lowered income tax rates many times over the past few decades. Currently, a married couple pays 15 percent on taxable income between $17,400 and $70,700. Four higher tax rates apply to incomes beyond that.

Many on NY's Long Island still dark after Sandy

HICKSVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—Two weeks after Superstorm Sandy, while most utilities have restored electricity to nearly all their customers, there was one glaring exception Monday: a Long Island power company with more outages—almost 60,000 Monday—than all the others combined.

As people on Long Island fumed over the cold and the darkness and complained that they couldn't get answers from the company, the Long Island Power Authority said in its defense that the storm was worse than anyone could have imagined and that it didn't just damage outdoor electrical lines; it caused flooding that touched home and business breaker boxes.

LIPA also acknowledged that an outdated computer system for keeping customers notified has added to people's frustration.

But some say the government-run utility should have seen it coming. It was recently criticized in a withering state report for lax preparation ahead of last year's Hurricane Irene and for the 25-year-old computer system used to pinpoint outages and update customers.

"It's antiquated. I think they're negligent," said Phil Glickman, a retired Wall Street executive from South Bellmore who waited 11 days to get electricity back.

LIPA has restored power to nearly 1.1 million homes and offices all together. About 46,000 still waiting for the lights to come back on are along Long Island's south shore and Rockaway Peninsula and had water damage to electrical panels and wiring, so their service can't be restored without an inspection and possibly repairs. The utility said it expects to restore service to the last 11,000 customers outside flooded areas by late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

At its peak, the storm knocked out power to 8.5 million customers in 10 states, with New York and New Jersey bearing the brunt. Those outages have been nearly erased, though Consolidated Edison, the chief utility in New York City, has cited problems similar to LIPA's, saying about 16,300 customers in flooded areas of Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island can't get service until their internal electrical equipment is repaired, tested and certified.

Nation

Indiana blast investigation focuses on natural gas

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The search for what caused a massive, deadly explosion that rocked an Indianapolis neighborhood turned to natural gas Monday, with officials checking gas lines and a homeowner saying a problem furnace could be to blame.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent investigators to check gas main and other lines serving the neighborhood where two people were killed and seven injured in the weekend blast. Local gas supplier Citizens Energy said it also was checking gas lines and a meter at the home that exploded.

But officials cautioned that it was too soon to rule out other causes, saying only that they do not believe a meth lab was to blame for the explosion that obliterated two homes and severely damaged dozens of others.

"It's too early to speculate that this might have been caused by a gas leak," Citizens Energy spokeswoman Sarah Holsapple said at an afternoon news briefing.

The owner of one of the homes that was destroyed said there was a problem with the furnace in the last few weeks.

AP

Citizens Energy workers continue their investigation Monday afternoon Nov. 12, 2012 by digging into the front sidewalk looking for possible explanation into the explosion of a house in Indianapolis.

John Shirley, 50, of Noblesville told The Associated Press that he received a text message within the last week and a half from his daughter, who complained that the furnace in the home where she lived with her mother and her mother's boyfriend had broken. The malfunction had forced them to stay in a hotel, the girl said.

When Shirley asked if the furnace had been fixed, his daughter said yes. He said he wasn't aware of any additional problems until he heard from his daughter again Sunday morning.

"I get a text from my daughter saying `Dad, our home is gone.' Then I called my ex-wife and she said what happened," he said.

His ex-wife, Monserrate Shirley, declined to comment Monday.

Scott Davis, president and principal engineer of GexCon US, an explosion investigation firm, questioned whether a furnace could cause the type of damage seen in the neighborhood. Furnaces have multiple safety triggers that prevent them from releasing that much natural gas.

"For a furnace to allow that much gas through, you'd have to defeat many of the safety features," he said.

Investigators said it could be some time before they determine a cause for the blast that sparked a massive fire, blew out windows, collapsed ceilings and shook homes up to three miles away.

"It's a methodical investigation. You have to move one step at a time," said Gary Coons, the city's homeland security director.

Public Safety Director Troy Riggs said investigators will treat the area as a crime scene until they rule out foul play.

Panetta: Admin deciding on post-2014 troop levels

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT OVER THE PACIFIC (AP)—Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Monday the Obama administration is nearing a decision in the next few weeks on how many U.S. troops would remain in Afghanistan—and for what purposes—after the U.S.-led combat mission ends in 2014.

Panetta told reporters aboard his plane en route from Hawaii to Australia that Gen. John Allen, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, has developed several options on a post-2014 presence.

Panetta also was asked about his future at the Pentagon. While he declined to reveal his plans, he suggested he still had work to do on the job he took in July 2011.

Panetta

"It's no secret that at some point I'd like to get back to California," he said. Panetta is from Monterey, Calif.

He added that there are a number of important defense issues awaiting resolution, including a budget impasse and the future of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan—suggesting that he would not leave immediately.

"Right now, my goal is to basically meet my responsibilities with regard to dealing with those issues," Panetta said.

Pressed to say whether he would rule out staying for all four years of a second Obama term, he replied: "Who the hell knows?"

In explaining the status of Afghanistan planning, Panetta said the administration is weighing Allen's options on post-2014 troop levels. He would not reveal what troop levels are being considered, but it is believed that at least several thousand could be needed for several years beyond 2014.

"My hope is that we'll be able to complete this process in the next few weeks," Panetta said.

More women have driver's licenses than men in US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Women have passed men on the nation's roads. More women than men now have driver's licenses, a reversal of a longtime gender gap behind the wheel that transportation researchers say is likely to have safety and economic implications.

If current trends continue, the gap will only widen. The share of teens and young adults of both sexes with driver's licenses is declining, but the decline is greater for young men, according to a study by the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute. The study looked at gender trends in driver's licenses between 1995 and 2010.

"The changing gender demographics will have major implications on the extent and nature of vehicle demand, energy consumption, and road safety," predicted Michael Sivak, co-author of the study. Women are more likely than men to purchase smaller, safer and more fuel-efficient cars; to drive less, and to have a lower fatality rate per distance driven, he said.

Over the 15 years the study covered, the share of men ages 25 to 29 years old with driver's licenses dropped 10.6 percent. The share of women of the same age with driver's licenses declined by about half that amount, 4.7 percent.

Male drivers outnumbered women drivers from the moment the first Ford Model T rolled off the assembly line in 1908, the year the automobile became popular, and through most of the last century. In the 1950s, when only about half of adult women had driver's licenses, jokes about women drivers were a staple of comedians.

But the gap gradually closed. By 1995, men with driver's licenses slightly outnumbered women, 89.2 million to 87.4 million. By 2010, 105.7 million women had licenses, compared with 104.3 million men.

Likewise, in 1995 men with driver's licenses outnumbered women in every age group except those over 70. By 2010, women outnumbered men among drivers ages 45 and older and between ages 25 and 29 years old. The share of older women who are also on hanging onto their driver's licenses has also increased.

"I want to be in my own car for as long as possible. I want to be independent for as long as I can," said Diane Spitaliere, 58, a retired government worker in Alexandria, Va.

Male drivers under age 44 are still slightly more numerous than women of the same age, but that's only because young men outnumber young women in the general population, the study said. There now are 105 boys born each year for every 100 girls in the U.S. Women outnumber men later in life because they live longer—an average of 80 years for women, compared with about 75 years for men.

ACROSS THE NATION

Murder-suicide eyed in deaths of 5 in Ohio garage

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Three children, their uncle, and their grandmother were found dead inside a garage Monday in what appears to be a murder-suicide amid a custody dispute. A truck was running with hoses leading from the exhaust into a car in the family's Toledo garage Monday. Inside the vehicle were the bodies of 54-year-old Sandy Ford; her 32-year-old son, Andy Ford; and her grandchildren, 10-year-old Paige Hayes, 6-year-old Logan Hayes and 5-year-old Madalyn Hayes, police said. Sandy Ford's husband, Randy, called police Monday afternoon to say that he had returned home and found suspicious notes in the house from his wife, son and grandkids. He said he wasn't able to enter the garage.

Motive behind Michigan police HQ shooting unclear

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (AP)—A 64-year-old man who was killed after walking into a suburban Detroit police station and opening fire on officers without saying a word was a military veteran who had health issues, authorities said Monday. Officers fatally shot Harold Joseph Collins on Sunday afternoon in the lobby of the police headquarters in Southfield, and a 50-year-old sergeant was hurt in the exchange of fire. Authorities were investigating what might have prompted the shootout, which happened on Veterans Day. A preliminary investigation indicates Collins had medical problems, but it is not clear if that had any bearing on his actions, Southfield Police Chief Eric Hawkins told reporters.

Tulsa dad arrested after toddler found in cage

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A Tulsa man was arrested after police found his 18-month-old daughter locked in a metal dog cage, his naked 4-year old daughter outside on a cold afternoon and him asleep in a drug or alcohol "induced stupor," police said Monday. A neighbor called police after finding the older child outside the family's home and getting no response when he knocked on the door around 4 p.m. Sunday, as temperatures dropped to the low 40s. Officers' knocks also went unanswered, "then one of the officers looked inside and saw a small child in a dog cage," Tulsa police spokesman Officer Leland Ashley said. After forcing their way inside, police discovered the toddler was covered in feces and that a 3-year-old child was asleep in another room. Their father was found asleep on a bed, "in an alcohol- or narcotics-induced stupor," Ashley said.

Asia

China slams Dalai Lama; Tibetans self-immolate

BEIJING (AP)—China accused the Dalai Lama of allying with Japanese right-wingers in an island dispute as a way of attacking China and blamed him for glorifying a wave of self-immolations among Tibetans. The comments came as state media reported two more Tibetans died after setting themselves on fire.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said the Dalai Lama's comments in Japan on the island dispute showed his "reactionary nature" and determination to split China apart under the guise of religion.

"To achieve his separatist goal, he associated with the Japanese right-wing forces. Chinese people despise him for what he did. We are firmly opposed to any country's providing a stage for him," Hong said.

■■■

TOKYO (AP)—The Dalai Lama says Beijing needs to thoroughly investigate the causes behind self-immolations by Tibetans protesting Chinese rule and blamed "narrow-minded Communist officials" for seeing Buddhist culture as a threat.

The Dalai Lama also called on foreign media and members of parliament to visit Tibet to see that what is happening there does not go ignored. The Tibetan Buddhist leader was speaking Tuesday before Japanese lawmakers in Tokyo.

Eight self-immolations have been reported over six days in the Tibetan region. China has long accused the Dalai Lama and his supporters of inspiring such acts, despite his condemnation of all forms of violence.

AP

Indian policemen detain a Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) supporter as he protests outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, India, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012.

■■■

Chinese media have said the Dalai Lama called the islands by their Japanese name during a news conference in Yokohama last Monday but an Associated Press review of a tape of the event showed he referred to them only as "the islands."

On Monday in Okinawa, the Dalai Lama criticized Chinese media for making up a claim that he sided with the Japanese.

Tensions have run high over the islands, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, since the Japanese government nationalized some of them in September in a bid to prevent Tokyo's right-wing governor from buying them. Violent anti-Japanese protests broke out in Chinese cities, and Beijing has sent ships to conduct near-constant patrols near the uninhabited rocks.

Hong also attacked the Dalai Lama for reportedly accusing the Chinese government of failing to investigate the root cause of despair and hopelessness among Tibetans that many say have prompted people to take their lives as a form of protest. China has long accused the Dalai Lama and his supporters of inspiring such acts, despite his condemnation of all forms of violence.

"Not only did the Dalai not condemn them, but he actually glorified these acts, which are against the national law and religious principles," Hong said.

On Monday, a 24-year-old Tibetan man set himself on fire at a prayer ceremony in Tongren county in western China's Qinghai province, becoming the seventh person in six days to self-immolate in the region, the rights group Free Tibet said.

Nyingkar Tashi is reported to have died in the protest in which he called out for freedom in Tibet and for the longevity of the Dalai Lama, the group said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australia orders federal child sex abuse inquiry

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's prime minister ordered a federal inquiry Monday into allegations of child sex abuse in state and religious institutions and community groups following a string of sexual abuse accusations against priests and claims of a Catholic Church cover-up. Prime Minister Julia Gillard had faced mounting pressure to order a wide-ranging investigation after the New South Wales state premier last week ordered an inquiry into allegations of a sexual abuse cover-up by Catholic priests in the Hunter Valley region north of Sydney. Victorian officials are also investigating a separate series of priest sex abuse allegations in their state. "Any instance of child abuse is a vile and evil thing. Australians know that," Gillard told reporters in Canberra. "Australians know, from the revelations that they've read in recent weeks, that too many children have suffered child abuse but have also seen other adults let them down. They've not only had their trust betrayed by the abuser, but other adults who could have acted to assist them have failed to do so."

Police: 3 rockets fired into Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan police say at least three rockets have been fired into Kabul but so far no casualties have been reported. Gen. Mohammad Zahir of the criminal investigation division of the Kabul police says the rockets landed in the Afghan capital Tuesday morning near a private television station and close to an office area used by the Afghan intelligence service. He says police are investigating a report that shrapnel struck a civilian vehicle.

Man charged with planning Prince Charles assault

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Police say they caught a New Zealand man before he had a chance to throw a bucket of horse manure over Prince Charles and his wife Camilla during a royal visit to the Pacific nation. Castislav "Sam" Bacanov, 76, pleaded not guilty in an Auckland court Tuesday to planning a crime in a public place. He has agreed under his bail conditions to keep at least 500 meters (1,600 feet) from the royal couple. The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall are on a six-day tour of New Zealand, the last leg of their Pacific tour marking Queen Elizabeth II's 60th Jubilee.

China delegates swoon at their proximity to power

BEIJING (AP)—Tears welled in Li Jian's eyes whenever President Hu Jintao mentioned the environment in his speech to Communist Party delegates gathered in the Great Hall of the People during China's most important political event of the decade.

Hu's exhortation last week to create a "beautiful China" and to "cherish and love nature" spoke to the 55-year-old bioengineer's dearest concerns. Hours later, still brimming with emotion, she stood up during a staid discussion among fellow delegates, to underline the good news.

This is coming directly from party leader Hu, she told them. "This is not from some TV anchor or some youth group speech," she said at the meeting, open to reporters. "This means there's no doubt we will have a beautiful China. That is absolutely certain!"

Li is one of the rank-and-file delegates attending the Communist Party congress running through Wednesday that will start to install a new generation of leaders to run the world's No. 2 economy.

Delegates like Li have no real political clout. They ratify decisions made by a few dozen party insiders in backroom deals. There were brought to Beijing largely to make the roughly 2,300-member congress more representative, but they believe in the cause and swoon at the prestige of being chosen to be a delegate.

"This is a high honor, especially for those of us who are not government officials," Li said. "Any one of us who gets elected is the cream of the crop from each and every industry."

Along with senior party figures, government officials, managers of state industries and military commanders, delegates like Li include migrant workers, peasants, factory technicians, teachers, doctors, artists and Olympic gold medalists.

There's China's "most beautiful mother"—who shot to national fame when she caught someone else's 2-year-old daughter with her bare arms when the toddler fell from a 10th-floor window. Wu Juping became a symbol of selflessness after the July 2011 rescue crushed her left arm.

"I did what every mom would do," said Wu, who was then a quality control employee at the e-commerce giant Alibaba in eastern China's Hangzhou city.

Afghan killings case testing military system

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. (AP)—The U.S. military has been criticized for its spotty record on convicting troops of killing civilians, but a hearing against Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales involving a massacre in Afghanistan has shown that it isn't like most cases.

Government prosecutors have built a strong eyewitness case against the veteran soldier, with troops recounting how they saw Bales return to the base covered in blood. And in unusual testimony in a military court, Afghan civilians questioned via a video link described the horror of seeing 16 people killed, mostly children, in their villages.

Law experts say the case could test whether the military, aided by technology, is able to embark on a new era of accountability.

Bales faces 16 counts of premeditated murder and six counts of attempted murder. The preliminary hearing, which began Nov. 5 and is scheduled to end with closing arguments Tuesday, will determine whether he faces a court-martial. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

The U.S. military system's record has shown it is slow to convict service members of alleged war crimes.

A range of factors make prosecuting troops for civilian deaths in foreign lands difficult, including gathering eyewitness testimony and collecting evidence at a crime scene in the midst of a war.

At Bales' preliminary hearing, the prosecution accommodated the Afghan witnesses, including children, by providing the video link and holding the sessions at night. The military said it intends to fly the witnesses from Afghanistan to Joint Base Lewis-McChord if there is a court martial.

"I think it shows they're going to prosecute this case no matter what it takes," said Greg Rinckey, a former Army prosecutor from 1999-2004 who is now in private practice. "This was an atrocity. This is not the fog of war. It's not like we were calling in artillery and an artillery shell landed in a village."

Prosecutors say Bales, 39, slipped away from remote Camp Belambay to attack two villages early on March 11, killing 16 civilians, including nine children. The slayings drew such angry protests that the U.S. temporarily halted combat operations in Afghanistan, and it was three weeks before American investigators could reach the crime scenes.

Through a video monitor in a military courtroom near Seattle, Bales saw young Afghan girls smile beneath bright head coverings before they described the bloodbath he's accused of committing. He saw boys fidget as they remembered how they hid behind curtains when a gunman killed people in their village and one other.

World

Israel reports 'direct hits' on Syrian target

TEL HAZEKA, Golan Heights (AP)—Israeli tanks struck a Syrian artillery launcher Monday after a stray mortar shell flew into Israel-held territory, the first direct clash between the neighbors since the Syrian uprising began nearly two years ago. The confrontation fueled new fears that the Syrian civil war could drag Israel into the violence, a scenario with grave consequences for the region. The fighting has already spilled into Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

"We are closely monitoring what is happening and will respond appropriately. We will not allow our borders to be violated or our citizens to be fired upon," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday in a speech to foreign ambassadors.

While officials believe President Bashar Assad has no interest in picking a fight with Israel, they fear the embattled Syrian leader may try to draw Israel into the fighting in a bout of desperation. Israeli officials believe it is only a matter of time before Syrian rebels topple the longtime leader.

The conflict has already spilled over into several of Syria's other neighbors—whether in direct violence or in the flood of refugees fleeing the bloodshed. More than 36,000 Syrians have been killed in the fighting, according to estimates by anti-Assad activists.

On Monday, a Syrian fighter jet bombed a rebel-held area hugging the border with Turkey three times, killing 15 to 20 people, according to a Turkish official. Separately, eight wounded Syrians died in Turkey, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Potential Israeli involvement in Syria could be far more explosive. The bitter enemies both possess air forces, tanks and significant arsenals of missiles and other weapons.

AP

Israeli tanks, one in position, the other getting into a firing position in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights overlooking the Syrian village of Bariqa, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012.

Although the Israeli military is more modern and powerful, Syria has a collection of chemical weapons that could wreak havoc if deployed. Fighting between the countries could also drag in Syria's close ally, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, or Islamic militant groups in the Gaza Strip on Israel's southern flank.

Israeli political scientist Dore Gold, an informal adviser to Netanyahu, said neither Israel nor Syria has any interest in escalating the fighting.

"I see no indication of Assad wanting to draw Israel in. But if violence comes from the Syrian army, or even forces operating in Syria that are affiliated with al-Qaida, Israel has to do what is necessary to make sure there's no spillover into Israeli territory," he said.

He described Israel's reaction Monday as a "carefully calibrated response."

"On the one hand, it shows Israel's determination to protect its civilians, and at the same time, it indicates it doesn't want to get drawn in," he said. Israel has warily watched the fighting in Syria for months, carefully trying to avoid any involvement. It has found itself in a difficult position as the fighting rages near the frontier with the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau it captured from Syria in 1967 and later annexed.

A number of mortar shells have landed in the Golan in the past week. Early this month, Syrian tanks accidentally crossed into a buffer zone along the frontier for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Israel responded for the first time Sunday, firing what it called a "warning shot" into Syria after a mortar shell landed near an Israeli military post. Israel also warned of a tougher response if the attacks persisted.

In Monday's incident, the military said it reported "direct hits" on a mobile artillery launcher after another shell struck the Golan. It would not say whether the launcher belonged to the Syrian army, saying only it had targeted the "source of fire."

The Israeli military believes the mortar fire is spillover from internal fighting in Syria and not aimed at Israel. But officials say they are beginning to question that assessment after repeated breaches of the frontier.

The incident began when Syrian military units were shelling gunmen in the twin Syrian villages of Bariqa and Bir Ajam, only several hundred meters (yards) from Israeli-held territory. An Associated Press photographer on the Golan side saw gunmen, presumably rebels, running as explosions shook the village from the shelling by Syrian army mobile artillery visible about a mile away (2 kilometers).

The rebels fired back with automatic weapons and then fled, running toward the Golan border and taking refuge under some trees. A few minutes later, the rebels made their way back to the village.

Gulf states recognize new Syrian opposition group

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council recognized the new broad-based Syrian opposition group Monday as the legitimate representatives of the Syrian people, the first formal endorsement of the opposition group that seeks to topple President Bashar Assad.

Syrian anti-government groups struck a deal Sunday after more than a week of meetings in Qatar. They were under intense international pressure to form a new opposition leadership that will include representatives from the country's disparate factions fighting to topple Assad's regime. The deal is backed by the U.S. and other Western countries.

The opposition has been deeply divided for months despite the relentless bloodshed in Syria that has left more than 36,000 people killed and repeated calls from their Western and Arab supporters to create a cohesive and representative leadership that could serve as a conduit for foreign aid.

In its statement, the GCC said it will offer "support and endorsement to this entity to realize the aspirations and hopes of the Syrian people." The council said it hoped the new body will be a step toward quick political transfer of power and put an end to the bloodshed. It called for Arab and international recognition of the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces, the new body.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullatif al-Zayani said the Gulf states hope the opposition has taken "a step toward quick political transfer of power" in Syria.

The GCC is made up of Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, the president of the new coalition, Maath al-Khatib, and top opposition figure George Sabra flew to Cairo on the Qatari foreign minister's plane for meetings with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby to push for recognition.

Iran prosecutor: Blogger died in police custody

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's state prosecutor confirmed Monday that a jailed blogger died in police custody last week and that wounds were found on his body, the first official confirmation of his death while being held.

The U.S. State Department and a press freedom group have called for investigation of the "suspicious death."

The prosecutor's statement came a day after Iran's parliament announced it would probe reports on the circumstances of Sattar Beheshti's death.

Prosecutor Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejehi told reporters that Beheshti was detained Oct. 30 for alleged cybercrimes and taken to Evin prison in north Tehran the next day. Beheshti was handed over to cyber police for interrogation the same day, He died Nov. 3.

"The coroner's office has provided a detailed report saying that signs of wounds were found in five places on this person's body, including foot, hand, back and one of his thighs, but no broken bones," the semiofficial Mehr news agency quoted Ejehi as saying.

Ejehi said a final report on the cause of Beheshti's death may take as long as 45 days to release. He said copy of a letter of complaint in Beheshti's name against his interrogator was found.

The semiofficial ISNA news agency quoted Ejehi as saying that Beheshti charged in the letter that he was subject to "threats, insults and beatings."

Ejehi said Iran's judiciary chief, Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani, has ordered a full inquiry into the death.

The government-owned Iran Network news website said three interrogators involved in the case have been arrested. The website, inn.ir, did not provide further details.

The Tehran police chief, Gen. Hossein Sajedinia, also confirmed that Beheshti died while in cyber police custody.

WORLD BRIEFS

Death toll in Kenya police deaths at least 34

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Suspected cattle thieves hid on a high hill and ambushed and killed at least 34 police officers pursuing them over the weekend in northwestern Kenya, a gruesome and powerful attack on government security forces that an official said Monday highlights the need for more reforms in the police force. Samuel Letipila, who represents the affected area in the local council, said 34 bodies of police officers and reserves had been recovered from the Baragoi region of northwestern Kenya. Seven officers still missing, he said. The police were killed over the weekend after being ambushed by bandits from the Turkana region who are suspected to have stolen another tribe's cattle.

Belize seeks McAfee software founder in slay case

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Police in the Central American nation of Belize said Monday that they are looking for the founder of the software company McAfee Inc. to question him about the slaying of another U.S. citizen, his neighbor in an island town on the Caribbean. John McAfee lived next door to 52-year-old Gregory Viant Faull, who was found with a gunshot wound to his head inside his two-story home north of San Pedro, a town on the island of Ambergris Caye, said Raphael Martinez, spokesman for Belize's Ministry of National Security. The housekeeper discovered the body Sunday morning and called police. Martinez said that no charges had been filed in the case, describing McAfee, 67, only as a "person of interest" for police. "It's too early in the investigation. To say he is a suspect would be a bold statement," Martinez told The Associated Press.

Focus

Petraeus shocked to hear of emails, associates say

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—CIA Director David Petraeus was shocked to learn last summer that his mistress was suspected of sending threatening emails warning another woman to stay away from him, former staff members and friends told The Associated Press Monday.

Petraeus told these associates his relationship with the second woman, Tampa socialite Jill Kelley, was platonic, though his biographer-turned-lover Paula Broadwell apparently saw her as a romantic rival. Retired Gen. Petraeus also denied to these associates that he had given Broadwell any of the sensitive military information alleged to have been found on her computer, saying anything she had must have been provided by other commanders during reporting trips to Afghanistan.

The associates spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the matters, which could be part of an FBI investigation.

Petraeus, who led U.S. military efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, resigned his CIA post Friday, acknowledging his extramarital affair with Broadwell and expressing deep regret.

New details of the investigation that brought an end to his storied career emerged as President Barack Obama hunted for a new CIA director and members of Congress questioned why the months-long probe was kept quiet for so long.

Kelley, the Tampa woman, began receiving harassing emails in May, according to two federal law enforcement officials. They, too, spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. The emails led Kelley to report the matter, eventually triggering the investigation that led Petraeus to resign as head of the intelligence agency.

FBI agents traced the alleged cyber harassment to Broadwell, the officials said, and discovered she was exchanging intimate messages with a private gmail account. Further investigation revealed the account belonged to Petraeus under an alias.

Petraeus and Broadwell apparently used a trick, known to terrorists and teenagers alike, to conceal their email traffic, one of the law enforcement officials said.

Rather than transmitting emails to the other's inbox, they composed at least some messages and instead of transmitting them, left them in a draft folder or in an electronic "dropbox," the official said. Then the other person could log onto the same account and read the draft emails there. This avoids creating an email trail that is easier to trace.

Broadwell had co-authored a biography titled "All In: The Education of General David Petraeus," published in January. In the preface, she said she met Petraeus in the spring of 2006 while she was a graduate student at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and she ended up following him on multiple trips to Afghanistan as part of her research.

But the contents of the email exchanges between Petraeus and Broadwell suggested to FBI agents that their relationship was intimate. The FBI concluded relatively quickly—by late summer at the latest—that no security breach had occurred, the two senior law enforcement officials said. But the FBI continued its investigation into whether Petraeus had any role in the harassing emails. Petraeus, 60, told one former associate he began an affair with Broadwell, 40, a couple of months after he became the director of the CIA late last year. They mutually agreed to end the affair four months ago, but they kept in contact because she was still writing a dissertation on his time commanding U.S. troops overseas, the associate said.

FBI agents contacted Petraeus, and he was told that sensitive, possibly classified documents related to Afghanistan were found on her computer. He assured investigators they did not come from him, and he mused to his associates that they were probably given to her on her reporting trips to Afghanistan by commanders she visited in the field there. The FBI concluded there was no security breach.

One associate also said Petraeus believes the documents described past operations and had already been declassified, although they might have still been marked as "secret." Broadwell had high security clearances on her own as part of her job as a reserve Army major working for military intelligence. But those clearances are only in effect when a soldier is on active duty, which she was not at the time she researched the Petraeus biography.

During a talk last month at the University of Denver, Broadwell raised eyebrows when she said the CIA had detained people at a secret facility in Benghazi, Libya, and the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. Consulate and CIA base there was an effort to free those prisoners.

Obama issued an executive order in January 2009 stripping the CIA of its authority to take prisoners. The move meant the CIA was forbidden from operating secret jails across the globe as it had under President George W. Bush.

CIA spokesman Preston Golson said: "Any suggestion that the agency is still in the detention business is uninformed and baseless."

Broadwell did not say who told her about CIA activities in Libya. The video of Broadwell's speech was viewed on YouTube.

A Petraeus associate said the retired general was shocked to find out about Broadwell's emails to Kelley. Petraeus was not shown the messages, but investigators told him the emails told Kelley to stay away from the general in a threatening tone.

Petraeus scandal chronology

What is known about the months leading up to the unexpected resignation of acclaimed former Army general and CIA Director David Petraeus over an extramarital affair:

Sept. 6, 2011 Petraeus becomes CIA director

November He begins affair with Paula Broadwell, his biographer

Petraeus

May 2012 Jill Kelley, a Petraeus family friend, receives several harassing anonymous emails; Kelley asks a friend in the FBI for help

Summer 2012 FBI traces emails to Broadwell; personal email accounts of Petraeus and Broadwell are also found that reveal their affair; agents then alert senior FBI and Justice Department officials

Cantor

August Affair ends

September-October FBI interviews Broadwell, later Petraeus; both admit to affair; it is determined to be a private issue and not a national security concern or criminal matter; congressional intelligence committees are not alerted to investigation

Mueller

Late October After getting tip about probe from FBI employee on Oct. 27, Majority Leader Eric Cantor tells FBI Director Robert Mueller's chief of staff on Oct. 31

Clapper

Nov. 6 FBI tells Director of National Intelligence James Clapper about the situation; Clapper advises Petraeus to resign

Nov. 7 Clapper notifies White House

Nov. 8 Petraeus meets with President Barack Obama, offers to resign; Obama accepts the resignation a day later

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Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell
Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, CNN, New York Times, MCT Photo Service

Petraeus told former staffers and friends that he was friends with Kelley and her surgeon husband, Scott, and regularly visited their brick home with imposing white columns overlooking Tampa Bay.

Jill Kelley, 37, served as a sort of social ambassador for U.S. Central Command, hosting parties for the general when Petraeus was commander there from 2008-2010.

A photo shows Petraeus and his wife, Holly, with the Kelleys and Jill's identical twin sister Natalie Khawam in the Kelleys' front yard, decked out in party beads with a pirate flag in the background. Khawam, is a Tampa lawyer who works on health care fraud and whistleblowers cases, according to her Linkedin profile, which was removed from the professional networking site Monday. The sisters—hard to differentiate in the picture with their matching long dark locks and black dresses—also competed in a cook-off filmed for a Food Network show called "Food Fight" in 2003.

Jill Kelley regularly kept in touch with then-Gen. Petraeus when he became commander of the Afghan war effort, the two exchanging near-daily emails and instant messages, two of his former staffers say. But those messages were exchanged in accounts that his aides monitored as part of their duties and were not romantic in tone, the staffers said.

Kelley did not answer the door at her Tampa home Monday morning, and later left her home by car without talking to reporters. The Kelleys hired Abbe Lowell, a Washington lawyer who has represented well-known clients including lobbyist Jack Abramoff and former presidential candidate John Edwards, and released a statement Sunday through a Washington-based crisis management firm that she and her family had been friends with the Petraeus family for five years and wanted to respect their privacy.

Petraeus and his family are devastated over the affair, especially Mrs. Petraeus, who "is not exactly pleased right now," after 38 years of marriage, said Steve Boylan, a friend and former Petraeus spokesman who spoke to him over the weekend.

"Furious would be an understatement," Boylan told ABC's "Good Morning America." The couple has two adult children, including a son who led an infantry platoon in Afghanistan as an Army lieutenant.

Broadwell is married with two young sons and lives in Charlotte, N.C. She has not returned phone calls or emails seeking comment.

As the criminal investigation continued into the emails to Kelley, FBI Director Robert Mueller and eventually Attorney General Eric Holder were notified that agents had uncovered what appeared to be an extramarital affair involving Petraeus, said one of the law enforcement officials.

Broadwell and Petraeus have each been questioned by FBI agents twice in recent weeks, with both acknowledging the affair in separate interviews. The FBI's most recent interviews with Broadwell and with Petraeus both occurred during the week of Oct. 29, days before the election, one of the law enforcement officials said. The FBI notified Obama's director of national intelligence, James Clapper, of the investigation on Tuesday Nov. 6, Election Day.

Clapper called Petraeus that night and urged him to resign. Clapper informed the White House late Wednesday, and aides informed the president Thursday morning, before Petraeus came to personally hand in his resignation letter.

Some members of Congress are questioning why they weren't told sooner. Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said she wants to investigate why she had to find out from news reports Friday.

But there were at least a couple of members of Congress who heard inklings of the affair before the election. Republican Rep. Dave Reichert of Washington state received a tip from an FBI source that the CIA director was involved in an affair in late October. Reichert arranged for an associate of his source at the FBI to call House Majority Leader Eric Cantor on Saturday, Oct. 27, according to Cantor spokesman Rory Cooper.

Cooper told The Associated Press Monday that Cantor notified the FBI's chief of staff of the conversation but did not tell anyone else because he did not know whether the information from a person he didn't know was credible.

"Two weeks ago, you don't want to start spreading something you can't confirm," Cooper said.

The FBI responded by telling Cantor's office that it could not confirm or deny an investigation, but assured the leader's office it was acting to protect national security. Cooper said Cantor believed that if the information was accurate and national security was affected, the FBI would, as obligated, inform the congressional intelligence committees and others, including House Speaker John Boehner.

One of the law enforcement officials who spoke to the AP said long-standing Justice Department policy and practice is not to share information from an ongoing criminal investigation with anyone outside the department, including the White House and Congress. The official said national security must be involved to notify Capitol Hill, and that was not the case in the Petraeus matter.

Petraeus' affair with Broadwell will be the subject of meetings Wednesday involving congressional intelligence committee leaders, FBI deputy director Sean Joyce and CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell.

Petraeus had been scheduled to appear before congressional committees on Thursday to testify about the Benghazi attack that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens. Morell is expected to testify in place of Petraeus.

Feinstein and others didn't rule out the possibility that Congress will try to compel Petraeus to testify about Benghazi at a later date, even though he's relinquished his job.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, asked about Petraeus' resignation on Monday, said it saw it as a "very sad situation to have him end his career like that." Panetta was CIA director prior to Petraeus.

"I think he took the right step" by resigning, Panetta added.

Campus Life

US colleges, universities look to foreign students

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—Want to see how quickly the look and business model of American public universities are changing? Visit a place like Indiana University. Five years ago, there were 87 undergraduates from China on its idyllic, All-American campus in Bloomington. This year: 2,224.

New figures out Monday show international enrollment at U.S. colleges and universities grew nearly 6 percent last year, driven by a 23-percent increase from China, even as total enrollment was leveling out. But perhaps more revealing is where much of the growth is concentrated: big, public land-grant colleges, notably in the Midwest.

The numbers offer a snapshot of the transformation of America's famous heartland public universities in an era of diminished state support. Of the 25 campuses with the most international students, a dozen have increased international enrollment more than 40 percent in just five years, according to data collected by the Institute of International Education. All but one are public, and a striking number come from the Big Ten: Indiana, Purdue, Michigan State, Ohio State and the Universities of Minnesota and Illinois. Indiana's international enrollment now surpasses 6,000, or about 15 percent of the student body, and in Illinois, the flagship Urbana-Champaign campus has nearly 9,000—second nationally only to the University of Southern California.

AP

In this Friday, Nov. 9, 2012 photo, Kedao Wang, 21, of Shanghai, China, a senior at the University of Michigan walks on campus in Ann Arbor, Mich. Wang, one of about 6,400 overseas students at the University of Michigan, said his experience has been excellent but agrees growing numbers don't solve the isolation problem. Virtually all Chinese students struggle at least somewhat to fit in, due to language and cultural barriers.

To be sure, such ambitious universities value the global vibe and perspectives international students bring to their Midwestern campuses. But there's no doubt what else is driving the trend: International students typically pay full out-of-state tuition and aren't awarded financial aid.

Public universities hit hard by state funding cuts "really are starting to realize the tuition from international students makes it possible for them to continue offering scholarships and financial aid to domestic students," said Peggy Blumenthal, senior counselor at IIE, the private nonprofit that publishes the annual "Open Doors" study.

Nationally, there were 765,000 foreign students on U.S. campuses last year, with China (158,000) the top source, followed by India, South Korea and Saudi Arabia (the fastest growing thanks to an ambitious scholarship program by the Saudi government). Altogether, the Department of Commerce calculates they contribute $22.7 billion to the economy, and many stay after graduation. For the first time in a dozen years, according to IIE, there were more foreign undergraduates than graduate students.

Indiana charges in-state students $10,034 for tuition and non-residents $31,484, so the economic appeal is straightforward. Still, out-of-state recruiting—international or domestic—is always sensitive for public universities, fueling charges that kids of in-state taxpayers are denied available slots.

At one level, that's true: About one-third of Indiana students come from outside the state, and for this year it rejected 4,164 in-state applicants. But while conceivably it could enroll more Indiana residents, without the out-of-staters' tuition dollars they would likely have to pay more. Indiana and others figure more of their out-of-staters may as well be international, arguing you can't prepare students for a global economy without exposing them to students from abroad.

David Zaret, Indiana's vice president for international affairs, says the school's interest in international students is educational, not "nakedly financial." He says IU could fill its out-of-state slots domestically, and points out that unlike some schools IU doesn't charge international students more than domestic non-residents, so there's no extra financial incentive. He also says there's been no particular effort to recruit Chinese students; he credits the extraordinary growth to hundreds of IU alumni now in China spreading the word. In fact, he said in a brief phone conversation from Argentina, "I'd like to see more balance," with more students from places such as South America and Turkey.

While international students bring revenue, there are also costs, obliging universities to expand services like international advising, English instruction, and even targeted mental health services. There is growing concern about the isolation of international students on campus. Expanding numbers may not help, just making it easier to find a bubble. One recent study found 40 percent of international students reported no close American friends.

Kedao Wang, a Shanghai native and one of about 6,400 overseas students at the University of Michigan, said his experience has been excellent but agrees growing numbers don't solve the isolation problem. Virtually all Chinese students struggle at least somewhat to fit in, due to language and cultural barriers. Wang, who goes by Keven, bought football season tickets all four years and loves the games, but rarely sees fellow Chinese students at Michigan Stadium. When he first arrived he tried not to hang out only with Chinese students, but his social life has since moved in that direction.

Still, he says, the shy students who once studied in the United States on Chinese government scholarships have been replaced by better-off Chinese who pay their own way and arrive more familiar and comfortable with Western culture.

Wang says Chinese students are under no illusions why they're recruited: "It's a market economy. There are people who want this who are willing to pay." Still, he'd like to see schools award more financial aid to internationals. Michigan non-resident tuition and fees ($41,870 for upperclassmen) are hugely expensive even for prosperous Chinese families, but are high enough that the international students who come here aren't socio-economically diverse (only a handful of U.S. colleges offer international students the same aid as domestic students).

> **Public universities hit hard by state funding cuts are starting to realize the tuition from international students makes it possible for them to continue offering scholarships and financial aid to domestic students.**

"There are so many bright students in China," he said. "If you can give just a few of them a scholarship, they would come and succeed."

A U.S. education is still highly desired by Chinese students, but Wang says "10 years ago people only knew the top schools." Now they're looking beyond the Ivy League and learning more about the range of options (including, he said, the fact that some U.S. colleges are terrible).

"I think that's important," Blumenthal said of the trend of international students moving beyond the most famous schools and into state schools, community colleges and liberal arts colleges. "They need to know that America's as diverse as we know it is."

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Trinidad Cepeda Agulto Deleon Guerrero

Lovingly known as "Nan-Da'n Ojisan"

Born To Life on May 26, 1923 and called to Eternal Rest on November 10, 2012

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Husband: Jose Cabrera Deleon Guerrero
Parents: Vicente and Ana Cepeda Agulto
Children: Joaquin A. Deleon Guerrero; Vicente A. Deleon Guerrero; Rosario DLG. Kumagai; Francisco A. Deleon Guerrero
Parents In-Law: Joaquin and Rosario Cabrera Deleon Guerrero

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of Her:

Children: **†Joaquin** A. & Magdalena I. Deleon Guerrero and Children; **†Vicente** A. & Bernadita S. Deleon Guerrero and Children; **Jesus** A. & Rosa T. Deleon Guerrero and Children; **Ana** DLG. & Curtis Gillespie and Children; **†Rosario** DLG. & Tadao Kumagai and Children; **†Francisco** A. Deleon Guerrero and Daughter; **Dolores** DLG. & Akiyoshi Yamagishi and Children; **Erica** DLG. & Augusto Evangelista and Children; **Jose** A. & Kumiko Deleon Guerrero and Daughter; **Theresita** A. Deleon Guerrero & William and Children; **Pedro** A. & Marites A. Deleon Guerrero and Children; **Ramon** A. & Honorina O. Deleon Guerrero and Son; **Rita** DLG. & Ivan Tudela and Children; **Margarita** A. Deleon Guerrero and Children

Reared Children: Hiroko Inoue and Rie Inoue

Nightly Mass is being offered at 6:00PM followed by Holy Rosary at the St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

On Saturday, November 17, 2012 Our Loving †Trinidad will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30AM for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed immediately by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated

Si Yu'us Ma'ase , Thank You, Salamat Po and Arigato Gozaimasu

The Family

Life & Style

Oxford chooses 'omnishambles' as word of the year

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Britain's media are in a meltdown and its government is gaffe-prone, so Oxford Dictionaries has chosen an apt Word of the Year: "omnishambles."

Oxford University Press on Tuesday crowned the word—defined as "a situation that has been comprehensively mismanaged, characterized by a string of blunders and miscalculations"—its top term of 2012.

Each year Oxford University Press tracks how the English language is changing and chooses a word that best reflects the mood of the year. The publisher typically chooses separate British and American winners. This year's American champion is "gif," short for graphics interchange format, a common format for images on the Internet.

Coined by writers of the satirical television show "The Thick of It," omnishambles has been applied to everything from government PR blunders to the crisis-ridden preparations for the London Olympics.

Oxford University Press lexicographer Susie Dent said the word was chosen for its popularity as well as its "linguistic productivity."

She said "a notable coinage coming from the word is Romneyshambles"—a derisive term used by the British press after U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney expressed doubts about London's ability to host a successful Olympics.

Omnishambles was chosen over shortlisted terms including "mummy porn"—the genre exemplified by the best-selling "50 Shades" book series—and "green-on-blue," military attacks by forces regarded as neutral, as when members of the Afghan army or police attack foreign troops. (For American English speakers, it's "mommy porn.")

The Olympics offered up finalists including the verb "to medal," ''Games Maker"—the name given to thousands of Olympic volunteers—and distance runner Mo Farah's victory dance, "the Mobot."

Europe's financial crisis lent the shortlisted word "Eurogeddon," while technology produced "second screening"—watching TV while simultaneously using a computer, phone or tablet—and social media popularized the acronym "YOLO," you only live once.

The final shortlisted term is an old word given new life. "Pleb," a derogatory epithet for lower-class people, was alleged to have been uttered to a police officer by British Cabinet minister Andrew Mitchell. He denied using the term, but resigned.

Elmo puppeteer accused of underage relationship

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The puppeteer who performs as Elmo on "Sesame Street" is taking a leave of absence from the iconic kids' show in the wake of allegations that he had a relationship with a 16-year-old boy.

Puppeteer Kevin Clash has denied the charges, which, according to Sesame Workshop, were first made in June by the accuser, who by then was 23.

"We took the allegation very seriously and took immediate action," Sesame Workshop said in a statement issued Monday. "We met with the accuser twice and had repeated communications with him. We met with Kevin, who denied the accusation."

The organization described the relationship as "unrelated to the workplace." Its investigation found the allegation of underage conduct to be unsubstantiated. But it said Clash exercised "poor judgment" and was disciplined for violating company policy regarding Internet usage. It offered no details.

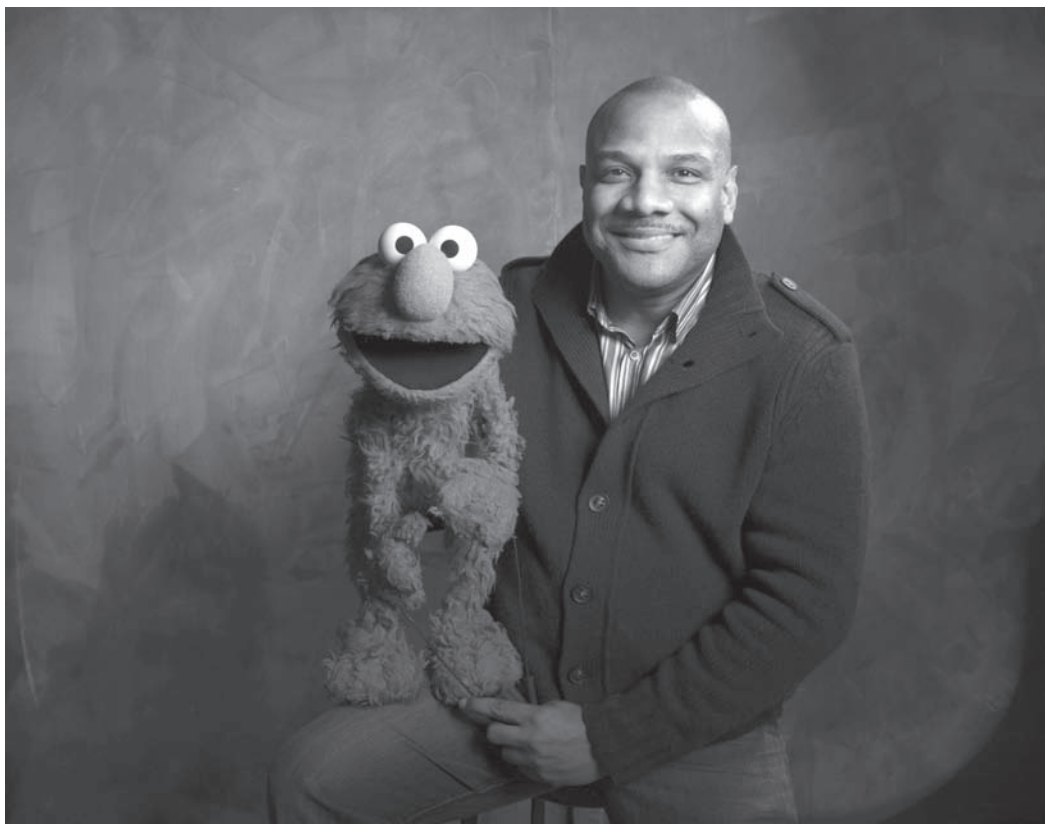
"I had a relationship with the accuser," Clash said in a statement of his own. "It was between two consenting adults and I am deeply saddened that he is trying to characterize it as something other than what it was."

Though usually behind the scenes as Elmo's voice and animator, Clash has become a star in his own right. In 2006, he published an autobiography, "My Life as a Furry Red Monster," and was the subject of the 2011 documentary "Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey."

Sex with a person under 17 is a felony in New York if the perpetrator is at least 21. It was unclear where the relationship took place, and there is no record of any criminal charge against Clash in the state.

Clash, the 52-year-old divorced father of a grown daughter, added, "I am a gay man. I have never been ashamed of this or tried to hide it, but felt it was a personal and private matter.

"I am taking a break from Sesame Workshop to deal with this false and defamatory allegation," he said.



AP

This Jan. 24, 2011 photo shows "Sesame Street" muppet Elmo and puppeteer Kevin Clash poses for a portrait in the Fender Music Lodge during the 2011 Sundance Film Festival to promote the film "Being Elmo" in Park City, Utah.

Everest saga wins Samuel Johnson nonfiction prize

LONDON (AP)—A gripping account of a doomed attempt to climb Mount Everest has won Britain's leading nonfiction book prize.

"Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory and the Conquest of Everest" by Canadian author Wade Davis was awarded the 20,000 pound ($32,000) Samuel Johnson Prize on Monday.

British mountaineer Mallory—the man who famously declared he wanted to climb Everest "because it is there"—died on the world's highest peak in 1924, and debate still rages about whether he reached the summit.

Davis sets the expedition in the context of Britain's imperial history and the trauma of World War I.

David Willetts, a British Conservative lawmaker who chaired the judging panel, said the book is "an exciting story of human endeavor imbued with deep historical significance."

"This fascinating historical narrative of a great adventure manages to shed new light on events and stories we thought we already knew," Willetts said.

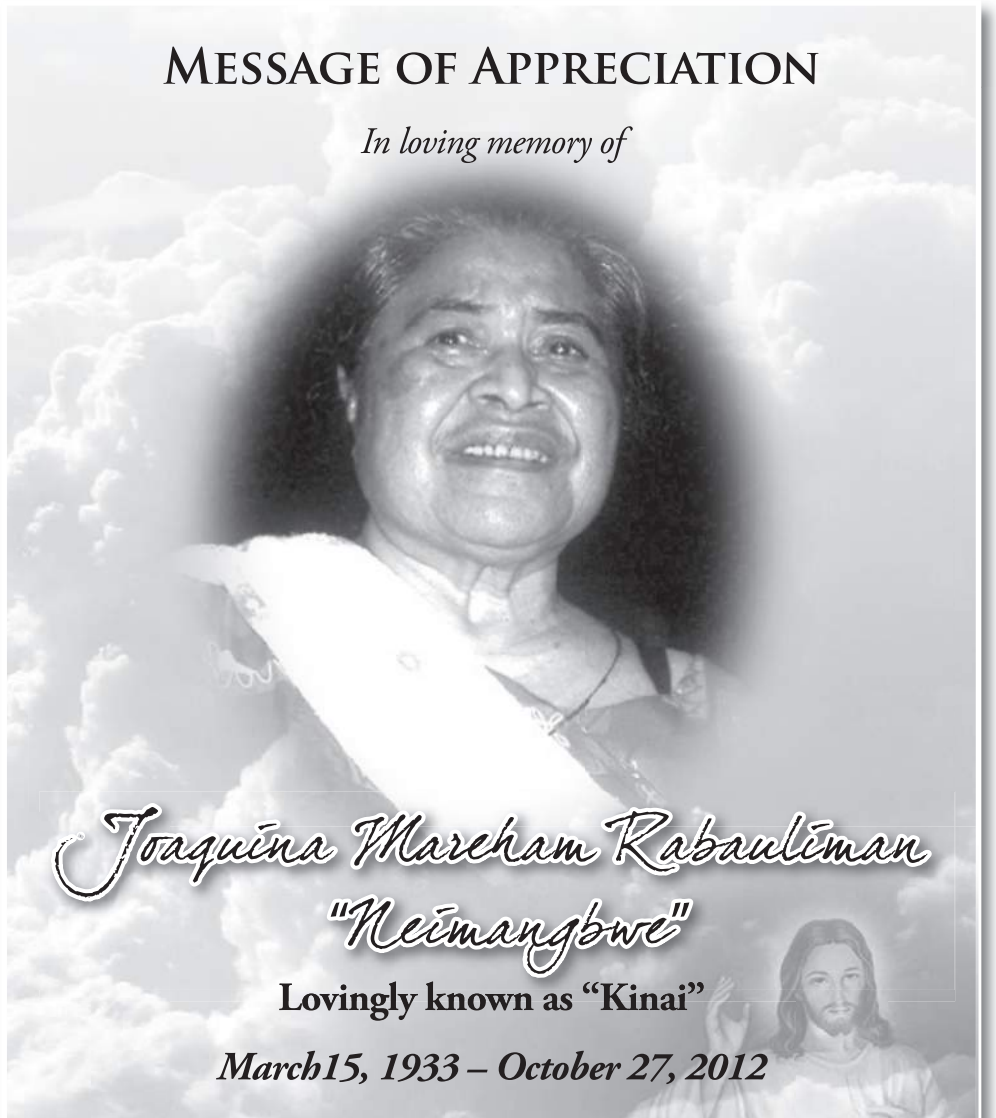
Davis beat five other shortlisted titles, including Katherine Boo's "Behind The Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Slum" and Steven Pinker's "The Better Angels Of Our Nature: A History Of Violence and Humanity."

The prize recognizes English-language books from any country in the areas of current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography and the arts.

Davis, the National Geographic Society's explorer-in-residence, has written 15 books on topics ranging from Haitian zombies to the Amazon rainforest.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

In loving memory of



Joaquina Mareham Rabauliman
"Neimangbwe"

Lovingly known as "Kinai"

March15, 1933 – October 27, 2012

We, the family would like to extend our sincere Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You to our family, relatives, and friends both near and far for your assistance, and most especially prayers during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expressions of sympathy, kindness, prayer and thoughtfulness has deeply touched us.

In gratitude for all that you have done. We pray to our Good Lord to bless and reward each and everyone of you.

God bless us all.

The Family

Victoria's Secret apologizes for use of Indian headdress

By FELICIA FONSECA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona (AP)—Victoria's Secret has apologized for putting a Native American-style headdress on a model for its annual fashion show, after the outfit was criticized as a display of ignorance toward tribal culture and history.

The company responded to the complaints over the weekend by saying it was sorry to have upset anyone and that it wouldn't include the outfit in the show's television broadcast next month, or in any marketing materials.

"We sincerely apologize as we absolutely had no intention to offend anyone," the company said.

Historically, headdresses are a symbol of respect, worn by Native American war chiefs and warriors. For Great Plains tribes, for instance, each feather placed on a headdress has significance and had to be earned through an act of compassion or bravery. Some modern-day Native American leaders have received war bonnets in ceremonies accompanied by prayers and songs.

"When you see a Lakota chief wearing a full headdress, you know that he was a very honorable man. He was a leader. He did a lot of honorable things for his people," said Michelle Spotted Elk, a Santa Cruz, California, woman of mixed heritage whose husband is Lakota. "It also has religious significance. With them, there's not a division between spirituality and their leadership."

Victoria's Secret model Karlie Kloss walked onto the runway last week wearing the floor-length feathered headdress, leopard-print underwear and high heels. She also was adorned with fringes and turquoise jewelry during a segment meant to represent the 12 months of the year—fireworks in July, rain gear for April and a headdress for November.

Kloss herself posted on Twitter that she was "deeply sorry if what I wore during the VS Show offended anyone."

Thousands of people have commented about the outfit on the company's Facebook page. Some praised Kloss' attire as artistic and urged those offended by it to "get over it." Several expressed appreciation to Victoria's Secret for halting its marketing of the clothing, and others reached back in history to explain their feelings.

"We have gone through the atrocities to survive and ensure our way of life continues," Navajo Nation spokesman Erny Zah said in an interview Monday. "Any mockery, whether it's Halloween, Victoria's Secret—they are spitting on us. They are spitting on our culture, and it's upsetting."

AP

This Nov. 7, 2012 photo released by Starpix shows model Karlie Kloss wearing an Indian headdress during the rehearsal for The 2012 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in New York.

The Victoria's Secret stir follows a string of similar incidents. Paul Frank Industries Inc. and the band No Doubt ran into criticism earlier this year for their use of headdresses in clothing and parties, and in a cowboys-and-Indians-themed video, respectively. They offered apologies as well.

Last year, Urban Outfitters Inc. set off a firestorm of criticism with its line of Navajo-branded clothing and accessories—particularly underwear and a liquor flask, which the tribe said was "derogatory and scandalous."

Abaki Beck was among a handful of Native American students who hosted a discussion last week at a private liberal arts college in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Native American culture in fashion and sports. She said companies first must learn from the mistake of ignoring Native American history and then make an effort to engage with Indian Country.

She wanted more than a short apology from Victoria's Secret instead of what she said sounded like an automated response.

"But perhaps that is an unrealistic hope," said the 19-year-old member of the Blackfeet Nation of Montana. "It is all about business, after all."

Jennie Luna, who is Chicana and Caxcan, said society largely is ignorant toward indigenous spirituality and doesn't understand what should not be marketed commercially. She and others say more education about Native American cultures is needed.

"We are people; we're not a fashion statement," Luna said. "We are people who are facing serious issues, and for them to further perpetuate the type of stereotypes and disregard for a community's way of life is unacceptable."

ReGina Zuni's advice to companies looking to market Native American culture is to hire Native Americans who have knowledge of tribal traditions, cultures and customs.

However, her reaction to hearing about the Victoria's Secret headdress wasn't outrage about the clothing itself, but about the lack of attention on health care, education, housing and other issues in Indian Country.

"To each his own," said Zuni, of Isleta Pueblo in New Mexico. "But seriously, if people want to grab media attention on Indian issues, this is not the issue to advance and place in the spotlight."

A year in, YouTube's channels not must-see TV, yet

NEW YORK (AP)—When Google announced its plans to fund some 100 new channels of original programming on YouTube, many expected a transformation in television.

Google had disrupted other industries and TV appeared to be next in line. The YouTube channels were trumpeted as the next iteration in television: Just as a handful of networks begat a few hundred cable channels, YouTube would now foster the birth of thousands of channels online.

The revolution has not yet been YouTubed.

Though a year later such a cultural sea change isn't palpable—and likely shouldn't be expected so soon—YouTube's developing platform of original programming is gradually taking shape, building steadily into an enormous, global video ecosystem wherein the tools to produce a mini TV station are anyone's.

YouTube is now doubling down on its investment. It recently expanded into Europe with another 50-plus channels. And now, YouTube is reinvesting in 40 percent of the channels that have already launched. That means more than half of the channels have failed to catch on, yet is still a rate of success that any network programmer would kill for.

But for YouTube, success at this stage is measured less by view counts than by changing perception.

"What we're trying to do is galvanize the creative and advertising community," Robert Kyncl, YouTube's global head of content and the leader of its channels initiative, said in an interview. "And we're succeeding at that."

Since it was founded in 2005, YouTube has been predominately the home of user-created video. But by putting out a welcome mat to Hollywood, the site is trying to lure viewers to stay for longer and coax advertisers to pair their brands with known talent.

Kyncl says the first year has been one of defining where YouTube's channels fit into the media landscape.

"I feel we're 300 percent smarter than we were in January," he says.

YouTube has declined to make public the size of its investment. The initial channel launch was reportedly fueled by $100 million, a number YouTube executives dispute. Kyncl will go no further than to confirm the $200 million he pledged to spend marketing the channels at YouTube's TV-style upfront presentation to advertisers in May—a flashy event capped by a performance by Jay-Z, who recently launched a lifestyle channel called Life and Times.

Jamie Byrne, director of content strategy, said the second round of funding would be relatively similar to the amount of the first round, on a per channel basis. Those not being offered more money aren't canceled; they are encouraged to keep going, but will have to pay their own way.

A simple glance at the site reveals how central the channels initiative is to YouTube. The fabric of the video behemoth—where 72 hours of video are uploaded every minute—has been reoriented to emphasize a user's playlist of channels, a move that has increased channel subscribers by 50 percent, executives say. It may sound like a small tweak, but behind it is the mission to alter the very nature of YouTube.

"Up until now, the primary noun on YouTube has been video. You watch a video, you share a video, a video has view counts and so on," Shishir Mehrotra, director of product management at YouTube, said in a separate interview. "We're gradually shifting the site so the primary noun on the site is the channel, and you tune into the channels that you care about."

Auction of Warhol works fetches over $17M

NEW YORK (AP)—The first in a series of live and online auctions to raise money for the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in New York collected over $17 million Monday.

The auction at Christie's featured 354 works by Warhol ranging from prints to photographs, some of which have not been seen by the public. Online auctions will begin in February.

Leading the sale was "Endangered Species: San Francisco Silverspot," a print that fetched over $1.2 million, Christie's said. Other highlights included "Jackie," a screen print and paper collage of Jacqueline Kennedy that sold for over $626,000, more than double its high estimate of $300,000.

Christie's said the auction saw a strong demand for unique photographs and prints with many exceeding their high estimates, including "Self-Portrait in Fright Wig," estimated at $12,000 to $18,000, which sold for $50,000.

The foundation said the money raised for its endowment from the sales would allow it to expand support of the visual arts, fulfilling Warhol's purpose in establishing it.

"The new level of global access to Andy Warhol's work that this series of sales makes possible, along with the bolstering of our philanthropic base, makes this an important moment for the Foundation and indeed for the world of art," said Joel Wachs, president of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Michael Straus, the foundation's chairman of the board, welcomed the results of the first auction.

"It has allowed us to increase our grant-making capacity at a time when the arts community needs support and has engaged an ever-expanding audience with the art of Andy Warhol," Straus said.

Judge reduces what 'Girls Gone Wild' creator owes

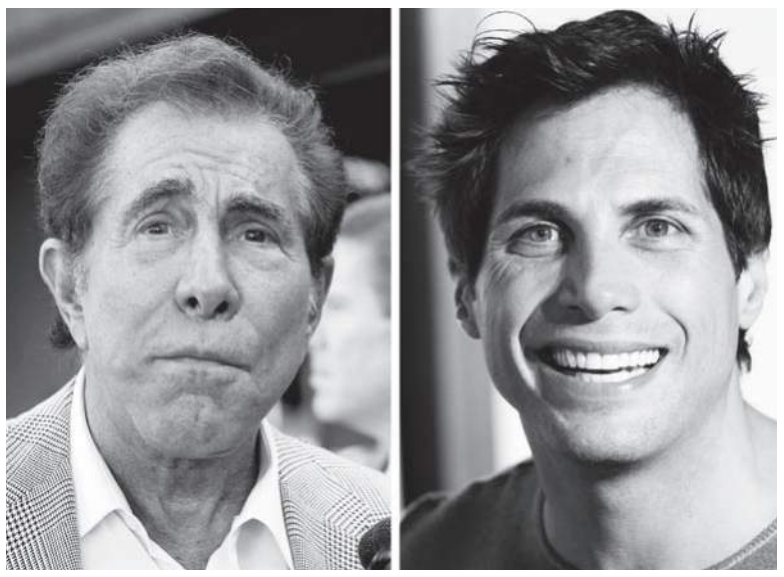
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has cut by more than half the $40 million jury verdict that casino mogul Steve Wynn was recently awarded against "Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joanne O'Donnell issued the ruling Friday, reducing the award by $21 million. Her ruling eliminates $20 million in punitive damages the jury granted Wynn and $1 million they said he deserved because of comments Francis made on "Good Morning America."

The ruling only affects damages awarded in the case and preserves the jury's determination that Francis defamed Wynn on three separate occasions, including on ABC's national morning show.

Francis vowed to appeal the remainder of the verdict.

"Judge O'Donnell committed a judicial error by allowing this case to even proceed to a trial, and she knows it," Francis said. "This is only the first step of her back peddling and unwinding her illegal actions in order to try to keep her job as a judge."



AP

This photo combination of file photos shows casino mogul Steve Wynn, left, in Los Angeles, and "Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis, in Los Angeles.

Francis' lawyers also have argued the statements on "Good Morning America" were not part of the initial case and shouldn't be included in the judgment.

The trial, which ended in September, centered on Francis' repeated claims that he was told Wynn had threatened to hit him in the head with a shovel and have him buried in the desert. Wynn denied making such threats and claimed they damaged his reputation and put his casino license at risk.

Francis testified he heard about the claims from Grammy-winner Quincy Jones, who told the jury that no such statements were made.

Wynn's attorney Mitchell Langberg said the casino executive was not disappointed by the ruling. "Steve Wynn is very happy with a $19 million compensatory damages award," he said.

Langberg said the ruling upheld the jury's determination that Francis made untrue statements about Wynn, confirming "what the case was about."

O'Donnell's ruling states that the jury had no evidence to support awarding punitive damages in the case. "The jury's punitive damage award was speculative and clearly the result of the jury's dislike of the defendant and/or his businesses," the judge wrote.

Wynn is the CEO of Wynn Resorts Ltd. and designed Las Vegas casinos such as The Mirage, Bellagio, Wynn and Encore. After the trial, Wynn called Francis a "digital assassin" and said he hoped the large verdict would discourage others from taking what he described as cheap shots.

Former Creedence frontman Fogerty gets book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Add one of rock 'n' roll's most admired and most uncompromising stars to the list of memoir writers: John Fogerty.

The former frontman for Creedence Clearwater Revival has a deal with Little, Brown and Co., the publisher announced Monday. The book is scheduled for 2014 and is untitled. Fogerty, 67, is known for writing and singing such classics as "Proud Mary" and "Bad Moon Rising" and for his clashes with band members and record executives.

"I want to tell the story of how I fought—hard—to maintain my artistic integrity in the face of opposing forces," Fogerty said in a statement issued through Little, Brown and Co., which in 2010 published Keith Richards' million-selling "Life."

Creedence Clearwater is widely regarded as one of the great American rock bands, defying the trend of long jams in the late 1960s and early '70s and turning out an amazing run of tight, top 10 singles. But the righteous edge to Fogerty's vocals and lyrics was matched by his determination to have his own way, including with his brother and fellow Creedence performer, Tom Fogerty. By the mid-'70s, the band had broken up and Fogerty would spend years battling his former music label, Fantasy Records.

His solo career has been sporadic, but he has had hits with "Centerfield" and "The Old Man Down the Road." Fogerty has an album scheduled for next year and plans collaborations with the Foo Fighters and Keith Urban among others.

"The kid from El Cerrito (California) wanted to be the best musician in the world—my promise to myself," Fogerty said in his statement. "I accomplished that goal against all odds, only to have it fall apart on top of me. The songs and the music stopped; you didn't hear from John Fogerty for years. All of this took its toll on me. I couldn't write a song, sing a song. And it was so hard on me, all of the lawsuits and betrayals. I was personally fading away. My story will share the ups and downs and how it all affected me. The road back was a bumpy one, and I knew that it would take years to come out of it, but I did. Happily, I did, with my dear wife, Julie, by my side.

"I have come to a place where I can look back and reflect on those stories and share what really happened. I am the guy who lived it, and you will hear me tell the story for the first time."

2 UK men admit stealing Henry Moore sculpture

LONDON (AP)—Two men have pleaded guilty in a British court to stealing a bronze Henry Moore sculpture worth up to 500,000 pounds ($793,800).

"The Sundial," created in 1965 as a working model for a larger sculpture, was stolen from the grounds of the Henry Moore Foundation in Much Hadham, eastern England, in July.

The distinctive bronze sculpture was found following a televised appeal for information.

Liam Hughes, 22, and 19-year-old Jason Parker admitted Monday at St. Albans Crown Court to stealing the sundial sculpture and the sculpture's bronze plinth.

They were granted bail and are to reappear at Luton Crown Court on December 4 for sentencing.

Moore, who died in 1986, was one of Britain's best-known 20th-century artists.

Exec: NBC's 'Today' show making leadership change

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC is changing the backstage leadership at its struggling "Today" show, which has consistently been behind ABC's "Good Morning America" in the ratings since replacing Ann Curry as an anchor this summer.

An NBC executive who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the plan is not finalized said Monday that Jim Bell will be replaced as the show's executive producer. Veteran NBC News executive Alexandra Wallace will oversee management of "Today" and a search is under way for Bell's successor.

NBC Sports said Bell will become executive producer of NBC's Olympics coverage, a role he took on this summer for the network's successful coverage of the London Olympics.

The "Today" show had a 17-year winning streak in the morning ratings, the last six under Bell's tutelage. But its ABC competitors made inroads this spring and after the decision was made in June to have Savannah Guthrie replace Curry as Matt Lauer's co-anchor, "Today" has fallen consistently behind in the ratings. The only exception was when NBC was in London for the Olympics, though "Today" recently has been closing the gap with "Good Morning America."

Bell came forward several weeks ago to say that removing Curry was his decision. At the time, many viewers seemed to believe that Lauer was involved.

Wallace, top deputy to NBC News president Steve Capus and a former "NBC Nightly News" executive producer, only recently was picked to replace the executive producer of Brian Williams' low-rated newsmagazine, "Rock Center."

The change at the morning news show was first reported by The New York Times.

Writing skills learned early pay big long-term dividends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am delighted that you still offer the booklet "How to Write Letters for All Occasions." When I was in my early teens, I ordered this booklet from you. It taught me not only how to write letters, but it gave me confidence to write—letters and more.

I have continued to write letters throughout my life. My skills, honed at such a young age, helped me in completing the often required writing during college and in my working life. I am called upon to write many letters, reports and memoranda. I am always complimented on my style and form, as well as the speed with which I am able to produce the needed documents. Although I often use email for communication, my writing skills serve me well. I now do some creative writing as well, having built on the skills I attained through your booklet.

Most important of all, it is a wonderful feeling to have stayed connected with friends and family over the years. A letter is an enduring reminder of love and friendship—one that exists far longer than a phone call. I owe so much to the booklet I ordered from Dear Abby years ago. Thank you!

KATHERINE IN STOCKTON, CALIF.

DEAR KATHERINE: Thank you for your beautiful letter and for letting me know how helpful my booklet has been for you. Letter-writing and emailing can be difficult for many people who aren't used to organizing their thoughts on paper or while viewing their computer screen.

Some don't know what to say, while others are afraid they'll say the wrong thing. But anyone can write a letter or email by following a few basic rules. My booklet, "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," contains not only the fundamentals, but also examples for almost every occasion. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby—Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. With the holiday season upon us and people sending greetings and thank-you's through the end of the year, this is the perfect time to send a handwritten letter or a well-written email.

While letter-writing or emailing may always be a chore to some people, there are occasions when the most appropriate, sensitive and elegant means of communicating one's thoughts is by the written word.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Why don't men wear their wedding rings? I can understand if they work in construction or something. But I see men at my medical office wearing suits, and while they wait for their appointments they talk about their wives, with no ring in sight. What gives?

SINGLE AND WONDERING IN KANSAS

DEAR SINGLE AND WONDERING: What "gives" is that some men are not comfortable wearing jewelry, and their wives don't insist upon it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

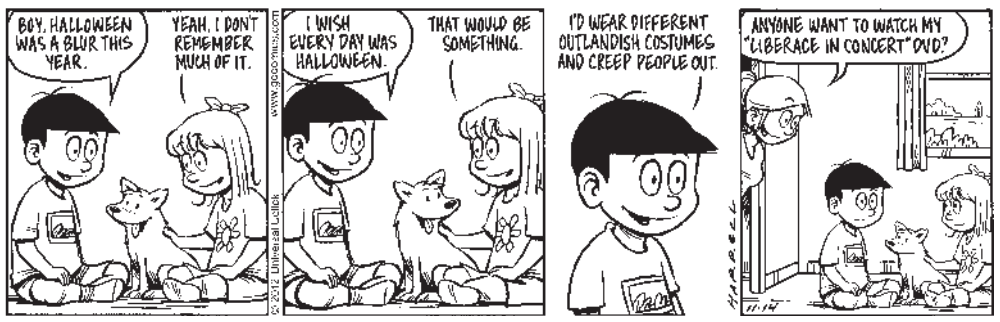
I CAN'T SLEEP.
WHO'S BEEN SENDING ME THESE INSULTS?! WHERE WILL IT STOP?! AM I GOING TO GET AN INSULT IN THE MAIL EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE??
THE THING THAT DRIVES ME CRAZY IS THERE'S NO WAY TO TRACE THIS LUNATIC! HE'S THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING! HE'S A MASTERMIND!
HEY, WHO CUT UP MY MAGAZINE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BOY, HALLOWEEN WAS A BLUR THIS YEAR.
YEAH, I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF IT.
I WISH EVERY DAY WAS HALLOWEEN.
THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING.
I'D WEAR DIFFERENT OUTLANDISH COSTUMES AND CREEP PEOPLE OUT.
ANYONE WANT TO WATCH MY "LIBERACE IN CONCERT" DVD?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

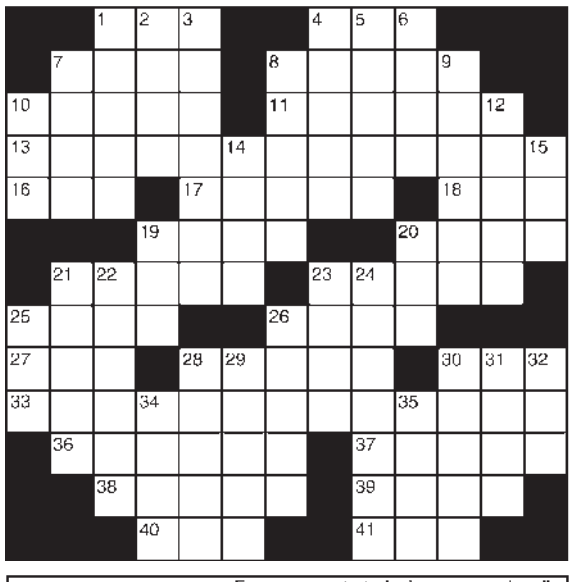
ACROSS
1 Space
4 Recipe meas.
7 Lass
8 Luster
10 Calcutta's land
11 High, wispy cloud
13 Orphan Annie's benefactor
16 Really messy place
17 Frogs' hangouts
18 Whopper
19 Crooked
20 Witnessed
21 Representative
23 Dervish
25 "Two and a Half Men" role
26 Oodles
27 Cacophony
28 Colorado tribe
30 Chum
33 Spider's cousin
36 Certain winner
37 Assessed
38 Tittles
39 Iowa State's home
40 Scepter
41 Scratch

DOWN
1 Lightheartedly silly
2 Dry
3 Nursery item
4 Bronze medalist's place
5 Belgrade natives
6 Lima's land
7 Summertime pest
8 Meager
9 Centers
10 Egos' counterparts
12 Downhill athlete
14 Refuse to
15 D.C. fig.
19 Stiller or Affleck
20 Firmament
21 Rap sheet entry
22 Best Picture of 1982
23 Bambi, for one
24 28-Down, to Tokyo
25 Toss in
26 Io and Ganymede, e.g.
28 Japanese city
29 Homeric epic
30 Heavenly gatekeeper St. —
31 Census stats
32 1960s hallucinogen
34 Entrance
35 Dalai —

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	I	O	M	■	S	I	Y	■	C	O	M	B
S	O	D	A	■	O	R	F	■	I	U	A	U
A	R	I	D	■	F	I	N	E	A	R	T	S
P	I	N	F	S	A	P	■	I	U	S	T	Y
■	■	■	D	O	S	■	H	A	S	■	■	■
O	L	I	O	S	■	W	I	N	E	B	A	R
H	E	N	■	■	R	A	M	■	■	I	D	O
M	I	N	E	C	A	R	■	I	F	N	O	T
■	■	■	U	R	N	■	F	O	R	■	■	■
A	M	I	G	O	■	L	I	N	E	U	P	S
S	I	N	E	W	A	V	E	■	S	P	O	T
I	C	O	N	■	N	I	L	■	C	O	N	Y
S	A	N	C	■	D	I	D	■	O	N	Y	X

Yesterday's answer 11-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Travis Barker, 37; Josh Duhamel, 40; Patrick Warburton, 48; Harland Williams, 50.

Happy Birthday: Emotional matters will stand in the way of your progress if you aren't honest. It's important to recognize your limits and to focus on skills and knowledge. Spend time picking up the knowledge, experience and attributes you need to reach your goals. Your numbers are 2, 7, 15, 22, 29, 31, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Let your faith lead the way. Your knowledge and belief will not let you down. Travel to be with someone you feel will compliment you and your pursuits. Stand by your ethics—you will have no regrets. Positive action will resolve issues. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Build up the momentum and put your plans into motion. Expanding an idea with someone you may be able to partner with will help you gain confidence. Choose a direction that feels comfortable, accessible and provides you with a challenge. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Use your imagination and strive to be innovative in your professional pursuits. You can ensure that you will have continued work if you show dedication, loyalty and originality. Love is in the stars, but fickleness will interfere with longevity. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have lots to offer. Don't sit back when you should be taking a stance and sharing your thoughts, ideas and plans for the future. Show how powerful and progressive you can be and you will entice someone important to see things your way. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't overstep your boundaries. Not everyone will agree with you. Only share your plans with the people you know have similar objectives. Love is highlighted, but don't lead anyone on or make personal promises you may not be able to keep. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Refuse to let others get in your way. Participate in community events and you will be able to shape the way your neighborhood develops. A professional opportunity will come through someone you have worked with in the past. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel and taking part in activities that develop your skills will lead to options you never considered in the past. A change in the way you do things can bring you financial benefits. Altering your surroundings will bring positive results. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't waste time thinking about what you should do to take the initiative and make things happen. You'll only have yourself to blame if you sit idle waiting for others to make the first move. Utilize your creative ability. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep a watchful eye on what everyone else is doing. Be secretive about your plans until you have everything you need in place. Love is in the stars. A passionate gesture will receive a good response. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Close a deal or open up a topic with colleagues or clients that will help you reach common ground. Negotiations can turn out well as long as you are savvy in the way you present what you want and what you are offering. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Volunteer whatever you have to offer, but don't let anyone put pressure on you to do something that will jeopardize you in any way. Protect your assets and your personal life first and foremost. Re-evaluate your past and you can improve your future. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let pride hold you back. Own up to mistakes and expand on future projects. Honesty and integrity will be the key to bringing together the best people to reach your goals. There is money to be made. Make a commitment. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and patient. You are intelligent but impulsive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	3			2			
2			8		4			
			1		6		7	
			9		5		2	
		5			1	4	6	9
	4						3	
7							1	
5							9	
3	1	9	6				8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	3	7	9	8	1	2	6
9	7	2	4	1	6	8	3	5
6	1	8	3	5	2	7	4	9
7	2	1	9	3	4	5	6	8
4	6	9	1	8	5	2	7	3
8	3	5	2	6	7	4	9	1
3	8	7	5	2	9	6	1	4
2	9	6	8	4	1	3	5	7
1	5	4	6	7	3	9	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BIG BAND SWING ERA Solution: 9 letters

P	L	B	F	E	O	C	S	I	D	O	B	A	N	D
E	E	A	A	L	C	M	G	U	I	T	A	R	O	N
R	A	R	R	L	U	N	E	D	V	U	N	E	I	I
C	D	I	F	R	L	T	A	L	I	B	J	P	D	W
U	E	T	D	O	A	R	E	D	O	A	O	E	R	D
S	R	O	R	P	R	N	O	J	L	D	O	A	O	O
S	S	N	H	O	S	M	G	O	A	I	Y	T	C	O
I	N	E	Y	B	M	R	A	E	M	Z	V	S	C	W
O	I	C	T	E	O	B	N	N	R	U	Z	E	A	P
N	L	H	H	B	O	R	O	L	C	S	S	L	H	L
S	O	P	M	E	T	A	T	N	U	E	T	I	E	A
E	I	I	H	M	H	S	E	W	E	O	L	S	C	Y
B	V	A	O	A	A	S	S	O	S	L	S	T	R	E
I	A	N	R	F	U	N	K	L	Y	R	I	C	S	R
V	C	O	N	C	E	R	T	S	T	R	I	D	E	S

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Accordion, Altos, Arrangers, Ballroom, Band, Banjo, Baritone, Bebop, Brass, Concerts, Dance, Disco, Drums, Fame, Fast, Flute, Funk, Guitar, Horn, Jazz, Leaders, Live, Lyrics, Melody, Music, Notes, Percussions, Performance, Philly, Piano, Players, Radio, Repeats, Rhythm, Slow, Smooth, Soul, Stride, Trombone, Tuba, Vibes, Viola, Violins, Woodwind

Yesterday's Answer: Jalapeno

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Act high and mighty

EMPLOYMENT

Building Maintenance (1)–knowledge of carpentry and electrical work. Apply at Kanda International, Inc. P.O. Box 503275. Tel. 235-2505.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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2009 Hyundai Tucson SUV. Excellent condition; Like new; Mileage 29K; Blue Book $12,800; Sale $11,500. Call 287-7676.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Hawthorne Pacific
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Full time Shop Clerk
Position Requires:
Computer skills, customer service skills and basic knowledge of Machinery.

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without Insurance
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Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

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P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Heavy Equipment Operator
(1) Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Minimum of 2 to 10 yrs experience.
Salary $5.55/hr.
Email tomastchong@gmail.com
or call 888-5748

KJ CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement
• General Manager / Beautician
• Assistant Manager / Beautician
Must have at least 3 year experience.
Interested applicants may call
288-7720

Mantrade Company Inc.
dba Motorline H.E. & Truck Parts
Job Vacancy Announcement
Closing date: Nov. 16, 2012
1-PARTS SPECIALIST
Send resume to: P.O. Box 506118
Saipan Mp 96950

Sheu's Brothers Holding Co. LTD
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Waitress, (2) Cook,
(4) Sales Representative
2 yrs experience. Knowledge in Chinese language a plus. Salary $5.55/hr.
Email tomastchong@gmail.com
or Call 888-5748.

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC
P.O. Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4427; Fax. (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: Nov 07, 2012
Close Date: Nov 16, 2012

Position: (1) Bookkeeper
Salary: $5.55 - $6.05 Per Hour
Qualification: AA degree/College Graduate (3) yrs experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00

Position: (1) Maintenance Technician
Salary: $5.55 per hour
Qualification: High School Diploma or Vocational (5) yrs experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-9071.00

Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 or email tinianfuel@yahoo.com on or before Nov 16, 2012.

Sherman Consulting, LLC
P.O. Box 520800, San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 Tel. (670) 433-2664; Fax (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: Nov 07, 2012
Close Date: Nov 16, 2012

Position: (1) Executive Assistant
Salary: $1,250 per month
Benefit: Medical Insurance 50% paid by the company
Qualification: AA Degree or College Graduate (5) yrs experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-6011.00

Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 or email phil@shermanpacific.com on or before Nov 16, 2012

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Manager
(Chinese Restaurant)
Salary $10.00 p/h. Knowledge in Japanese & Chinese language a plus. Minimum of 2 years experience.

(1) Assistant Manager
(2) Cook Helper
Salary $5.55 p/h. Minimum of 2 years experience.

Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748.

POLARIS DEVELOPMENT CORP. is looking for:

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- **MASSEUSE (1 position)**
- **BOOK KEEPER (1 position)** – with Bachelor's degree in Accounting and with background in financial preparation.

All applicants must have at least 2 years experience and must have excellent knowledge and skills on the category they are applying for.

- **GENERAL MAINTENANCE (3 positions)**

"Any applicant tentatively selected for these positions are required to submit and pass a drug test screening prior to employment."

APPLY IN PERSON AND BRING RESUME

For more info please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 235-5598, 235-5599 or 483-1971.

WANTED AVON REPRESENTATIVE
and earn up to 20% to 50% commission. Please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 235-5599 or 483-1971.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2001 NISSAN FRONTIER SE

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

Vehicle bid form can be obtained from
Bank of Guam through Counsel Robert T. Torres
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: 2012-02
OPENING DATE: 10/29/12
CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

It is the policy of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution and Federal Civil Rights Laws regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place or origin.

Position: Executive Director **Pay Level:** Ungraded **Salary:** Not to Exceed $75,000.00 P/A
Location: Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Tinian, MP 96950 USA

Duties: Serves as Chief Administrative Officer for the Commission. Responsible for maintaining efficient operations, organizing and planning the work for the Commission, and ensuring that the Commission acts in accordance with the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989. Responsible for recruiting key staff members, developing administrative procedures and internal controls. Initiates investigations of applicants for casino licenses and makes recommendations to the Commission based on the findings. Attends all Commission meetings, prepares annual performance report for the Commission, reviews internal financials and operating reports of the Commission's activities, and any other duties as specified in the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989, or by the Commission.

Qualifications: Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in public administration, business administration or related filed, and five (5) years substantial experience in administrative office management and staff supervision in a public or private organization. Experience in personnel and fiscal management, procurement and supply, and contract negotiation and other managerial skills are an additional plus.

Special Conditions of Employment: Employment will be undertaken pursuant to TCGCC Personnel Regulations including, but not limited to, Article 3: Section 3-108(1); "There are special conditions and standards of employment which are considered implicit to successful performance in certain positions. These conditions may relate to unusual hours of work, physical or medical standards, maintenance of a license, maintenance of a health certification, availability during off-hours, or need to frequently travel."

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION AT THE TCGCC MAIN OFFICE IN TINIAN. THE COMPLETED EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RESUME, SCHOOL DIPLOMA(S) OR TRANSCRIPTS, AND POLICE CLEARANCE, MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERSONNEL SPECIALIST AT THE TCGCC MAIN OFFICE WHILE POSITION IS STILL OPEN.

TCGCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND OR CANCEL THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WITH OR WITHOUT CAUSE
P.O. Box 143 Tinian, MP 96952 • Tel: (670) 433-9288/9292 • Fax(670) 433-9290

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Operations Manager
Salary: $6.05/hr.
Minimum 4 years experience with Bachelor's Degree.

(2) Carpet Installers
Salary: $5.55/hr.
Minimum 2 years experience with High School Graduation or equivalent.

Interested applicants please bring resume & police clearance to Innovation Inc., San Antonio, P.O.Box 504206, or call 235-5547.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

act

my tea

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Find today's solution in classified section

Lakers intrigued by chance to play for D'Antoni

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Pau Gasol got home from the game and read about it on Twitter, while Dwight Howard got a midnight message on his BlackBerry. They shared most Los Angeles Lakers fans' mix of surprise, trepidation and anticipation.

Just when everybody thought the Lakers were getting back together with Phil Jackson, they switched course in the middle of the night and went with Mike D'Antoni.

What a weekend in Hollywood—and the real drama isn't over yet.

The Lakers reacted with ample excitement and a little bewilderment Monday to their front office's surprising decision to hire D'Antoni as coach Mike Brown's replacement over Jackson, the 11-time champion who discussed the job at his home Saturday and apparently wanted to return. D'Antoni didn't even interview for the job in person, speaking to the Lakers over the phone.

"It has been crazy, but all this stuff will just make this team stronger," said Howard, who has been in a Lakers uniform for about six weeks. "Everything that we've been through so far, it's going to make us stronger, and we have to look at this as a positive situation."

The Lakers' third coach in four days won't take over the team until later in the week. D'Antoni still hadn't been cleared to travel Monday after undergoing knee replacement surgery earlier in the month, although the Lakers are optimistic the former Knicks and Suns coach will arrive in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

AP

In this Feb. 22, 2012, file photo, then-New York Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni gestures in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in New York.

So interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff was still in charge Monday when the Lakers gathered for an informal workout ahead of Tuesday's game against San Antonio. Just two weeks into the regular season, the Lakers (3-4) are about to start over with a new offense and another coaching staff—and a renewed certainty they're expected to compete for a title this season.

"It's been a zoo," said forward Antawn Jamison, a 15-year NBA veteran who played for D'Antoni on a U.S. national team. "But as I was telling somebody, it's just a typical day here in L.A. It's interesting. ... It should be a lot easier to adjust to than the system we were trying to get adjusted to early on in the season. We've got Steve (Nash) that can help us out."

Two Lakers who supported both Brown and his two potential replacements weren't available in El Segundo to weigh in on the hire. Nash missed the workout while getting treatment on his injured leg, while Kobe Bryant left before it ended to share a helicopter ride back home to Orange County with point guard Steve Blake, who needed an exam on his abdominal injury.

And the tall, professorial coach with all the rings wasn't at the Lakers' training complex at all.

Just 24 hours after Jackson seemed headed back to his oversized chair on the Staples Center bench, D'Antoni had the job.

It's too soon to tell how the Buss family's latest counter-intuitive move will sit with Lakers fans, who chanted "We want Phil!" during the club's weekend games, both victories after a 1-4 start.

"I think everybody had expectations about it, and they were all pretty high," Gasol said of Jackson's potential return. "We all understood what Phil brings to the table ... and what he means to the city and the franchise. It just couldn't work out for whatever reason."

Jackson issued a statement to a handful of media outlets Monday, implying he was essentially offered the job after meeting with Lakers owner Jim Buss and general manager Mitch Kupchak. Jackson thought he would be able to come back to the Lakers on Monday with his decision, but instead was awakened by a midnight phone call from Kupchak.

"The decision is of course theirs to make," Jackson said in his statement. "I am gratified by the groundswell of support from the Laker fans who endorsed my return, and it is the principal reason why I considered the possibility."

The Lakers largely echoed the thoughts of Howard, who was looking forward to playing for Jackson: "Management had to do what they felt is best for the team, and we as players have got to find a way to win."

The Lakers publicly offered no reason for passing over the coach with the most championships in NBA history. Although nobody could claim the Buss family is afraid of spending money, Brown is still owed well over $10 million for the remaining three seasons on his four-year, $18 million contract, while D'Antoni will make $4 million a season for the next three years—and their salaries together might be less than what Jackson would command.

The Lakers largely know what they would get with Jackson, but D'Antoni intrigues this older, top-heavy team with an urgency to contend for a title before Howard's free agency next summer and Bryant's possible retirement in a few years.

Howard and Gasol both believe D'Antoni's up-tempo style can work well for the Lakers. Howard would seem to be a natural to partner with Nash in the pick-and-roll attacks loved by D'Antoni and Nash, although Gasol doesn't immediately fit into the definition of a big man who can play on the perimeter and shoot 3-pointers.

"It's a great system, (but) I don't think he ever had a defender such as myself or a defender such as Dwight Howard on those teams," Metta World Peace said. "I don't think he ever coached those type of players, so his defense should be self-explanatory, and his offense is amazing, so it should be fun for Laker fans."

The rest of the NBA sat back and watched the Lakers' drama with amusement over the past two days, with Dallas owner Mark Cuban weighing in gleefully on the mess: "I hope they have to do it again and again and again."

Jackson's flirtation with the job is the strongest indication yet that he's interested in coaching again, which makes him a prime candidate for another franchise. Yet D'Antoni also received praise around the league—even from New York, where he resigned last March after failing to win a playoff game in four years with the Knicks.

"Despite all the hoopla ... that was going on about me and Mike, we actually have a pretty good relationship, especially behind closed doors," Carmelo Anthony said. "We actually talked a lot, talked basketball. Hopefully he brings some positive energy over there. Anytime guys are losing like that, there's always negativity, a lot of negative energy. So sometimes change is better."

Added Dwyane Wade, who has played for D'Antoni on the U.S. national team: "He has a tough job ahead of him, but I'm sure he's excited about the opportunity that he gets to be with America's team."

James scores 38 in Heat's 113-110 win at Houston

HOUSTON—LeBron James scored a season-high 38 points, Chris Bosh had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and the Miami Heat rallied to beat the Houston Rockets 113-110 on Monday night.

Dwyane Wade scored 19 points for the Heat, who shot 47.6 percent from 3-point range (10 of 21) and 51 percent from the field overall.

Chandler Parsons scored a career-high 25 points and Omer Asik had a career-best 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Rockets, who led 110-106 with 90 seconds left.

James went 3 for 4 from the free throw line over the next minute, then drove for the go-ahead layup with 19 seconds left.

Jeremy Lin shot an airball from 3-point range with 10 seconds left, Wade caught it and the Heat escaped with their sixth straight win over Houston.

Celtics 101, Bulls 95

In Chicago, Rajon Rondo had 20 points, nine rebounds and 10 assists to lead Boston over Chicago.

Rondo took advantage of Bulls point guard Nate Robinson for three quarters, helping the Celtics build a 12-point lead on 56 percent shooting. He extended his streak of consecutive games with 10 or more assists to 31, the longest in the NBA since John Stockton had 37 straight from Feb. 27 to Nov. 29, 1989.

Luol Deng led the Bulls with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

Hawks 95, Trail Blazers 87

In Portland, Ore., Josh Smith had 19 points and 11 rebounds, Kyle Korver added 16 points and Atlanta snapped a two-game skid with a win over Portland.

Al Horford added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta, which was playing the second game of a four-game West Coast swing after losing 89-76 to the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday.

J.J. Hickson had 19 points and 18 rebounds, and Nicolas Batum scored 19 points to lead Portland, which dropped its fourth straight. Wesley Matthews had 17 points and made all 10 of his free throws.

Jazz 140, Raptors 133, 3OT

In Toronto, Paul Millsap scored seven of his 34 points in the third overtime, Al Jefferson had 24 points and 17 rebounds, and Utah beat Toronto for its first road win of the season.

The Jazz rallied after trailing by 11 in the fourth quarter, and no basket was bigger than Jefferson's 3-pointer with 2 seconds left in regulation, a shot that bounced around the rim before falling through. It was just the second 3-pointer of Jefferson's nine-year career. He came in 1 for 25 from 3-point range.

Mo Williams had 17 points and 14 assists, Randy Foye scored 20 points and Marvin Williams had 17 as the Jazz opened a four-game trip by avoiding their first 0-5 start away from home since 1987.

DeMar DeRozan matched his career high with 37 points, Jose Calderon had 20 points and 17 assists, and Amir Johnson fouled out with 11 points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost their fourth straight.

Thunder 92, Pistons 90

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Russell Westbrook scored a season-high 33 points and keyed a fourth-quarter comeback as Oklahoma City rallied to beat winless Detroit.

The loss left the Pistons with an 0-8 record, the worst start in franchise history. It was the fourth game in five nights for the Thunder, who improved to 6-2.

Westbrook, who also had 10 rebounds and four assists, contributed six points—all on free throws—to a 13-0 Thunder run to open the fourth quarter that turned a 73-62 deficit into a 75-73 lead with 8:11 left.

Kevin Durant, who hit a tough runner with 47.8 seconds remaining that gave Oklahoma City an 88-85 advantage, added 26 points and nine rebounds.

Rodney Stuckey led the Pistons with 19 points and Greg Monroe had 17.

Bucks 105, 76ers 96

In Philadelphia, Brandon Jennings scored 33 points and Monta Ellis had 18 to lead Milwaukee past Philadelphia.

The Bucks improved to 3-0 on the road for the first time since they won their first four in 2001-02. Mike Dunleavy added 13 points and Milwaukee shot around 60 percent most of the game.

Jennings hit four 3-pointers, had four steals and was 5 of 5 from the free throw line.

Jrue Holiday had 25 points and a whopping eight turnovers for the 76ers, who were coming off their first 3-0 road trip since 2003.

Timberwolves 90, Mavericks 82

In Dallas, Nikola Pekovic scored 20 points before leaving with an injury and the short-handed Minnesota Timberwolves beat Dallas.

Because of a rash of injuries, the Timberwolves dressed only 10 players. The 6-foot-11 Pekovic exited with 2:46 left in the third quarter with a sprained left ankle and didn't return.

Pekovic went 8 of 13 from the floor. Andrei Kirilenko and Alexey Shved each had 16 points for Minnesota.

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle was ejected after arguing a foul call with 5 minutes left. Assistant coach Jim O'Brien coached the team the rest of the way.

Darren Collison had 21 points and O.J. Mayo added 18 for the Mavericks, who lost their third straight.

Suns 110, Nuggets 100

In Phoenix, Goran Dragic scored 21 points, including 4-of-5 shooting on 3-pointers, to lead seven Phoenix players in double figures as the Suns snapped Denver's four-game winning streak.

Shannon Brown added 19 points, Michael Beasley 16 and Jared Dudley 15 for Phoenix. Markieff Morris scored 13 points and had a crucial steal down the stretch. Marcin Gortat and Luis Scola added 12 points apiece for the Suns, who finished the game with a 13-4 run.

Andre Iguodala scored 17 for Denver.

Roethlisberger hurt, Steelers survive Chiefs, 16-13

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Their franchise quarterback on his way to the hospital, the momentum firmly on the other side of the field after a stunning last-minute rally by one the NFL's worst teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers appeared lost.

Then linebacker Lawrence Timmons provided a reminder that—Ben Roethlisberger or no Ben Roethlisberger—Pittsburgh's identity begins and ends with defense.

Timmons intercepted Kansas City quarterback Matt Cassel on the second snap of overtime and Shaun Suisham drilled a 23-yard field goal one play later to lift the Steelers to a 16-13 victory over the hapless Chiefs.

"We just stayed positive," Timmons said. "It's easy to get down on yourself, but we are not like that. We stand up, face adversity."

Good thing, because there's plenty to go around.

The Steelers (6-3) have won four straight but played most of the second half without Roethlisberger, who left with a right shoulder injury in the third quarter after getting sacked by Kansas City linebackers Tamba Hali and Justin Houston.

Coach Mike Tomlin wouldn't speculate on the severity of Roethlisberger's injury and his status for Sunday's showdown with AFC North leader Baltimore is uncertain.

"It didn't seem like a tough hit ... but he came to the sideline and next thing you know he was gone," Pittsburgh left tackle Max Starks said. "I'm hoping it was nothing serious. Honestly it didn't seem like it."

Veteran backup Byron Leftwich came on in relief and completed 7 of 14 passes for 73 yards in his first regular season game in nearly two years.

"It wasn't a pretty body of work by any of us, but his consistency remains the same in terms of being a stabilizing force for us," Tomlin said.

Jamaal Charles ran for 100 yards and a score for the Chiefs (1-8), who have lost six straight.

The Chiefs had their chances, taking their first lead in regulation all season in the first half then overcoming a series of embarrassing miscues to tie the game at 13 at the end of regulation.

Taking over at the Kansas City 20 with 1:51 remaining, Cassel led the Chiefs 52 yards—converting a 4th-and-15 in the process—to set up a 46-yard field goal by Ryan Succop as time expired.

"I thought our guys played and competed all night long," Cassel said. "We went up against a good football team and unfortunately we weren't able to pull it out in the end but I thought the way the guys handled the environment of Monday Night Football was great."

Kansas City's only other victory this season came in overtime, a stunning upset in New Orleans in September. Any chance at a repeat faded when Cassel's pass on the second play of extra period landed in the hands of Timmons, who returned it 23 yards to set up Suisham's second game-winning field goal of the season.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) is sacked by Kansas City Chiefs outside linebacker Tamba Hali (91) in the third quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012, in Pittsburgh.

It was sweet vindication for a Pittsburgh defense that allowed AFC lesser lights Tennessee and Oakland to mount fourth-quarter comebacks earlier this season. Though the Steelers only managed to get the Chiefs—last in the NFL in turnover differential—to cough it up once, timing is everything.

"We got the one that count baby," linebacker Larry Foote said. "We got the one that count. They did a good job tonight, but we got the one that was big time."

Tomlin didn't waste any time, sending the field goal team out immediately. Suisham's kick was good all the way, and now the Steelers begin a critical three-game stretch wondering when their two-time Super Bowl winning quarterback will be ready.

Roethlisberger is in the midst of a career year but struggled through a so-so first half and was 9 of 18 for 84 yards and a touchdown when he tried to buy time in the pocket hoping to convert on third-and-4. Hali and Houston swarmed in and sent him into the turf, driving his throwing shoulder into the ground.

Enter Leftwich, who managed to lead the Steelers on one scoring drive early in the fourth that gave them a 13-10 lead.

"After four or five plays, it was like riding a bike," Leftwich said. "I took a few hits. I hadn't hit the ground in awhile. It was a whole lot of things I hadn't done in awhile. It was good."

Pittsburgh came in riding a three-game winning streak that erased the sour taste of a 2-3 start, and the Steelers insisted all week they wouldn't look past the Chiefs.

Funny, Pittsburgh certainly looked distracted at the start of a raw, soggy night at Heinz Field.

The Chiefs didn't take long to erase one bit of misery in their lifeless, luckless season, taking their first lead since New Year's Day during a spirited first half in which they avoided the kind of gaffes—turnovers, penalties, assignment breakdowns—that have plagued them all year.

With Charles gashing Pittsburgh's defensive line and Cassel avoiding mistakes, Kansas City raced in front 10-0. Cassel hit Tony Moeaki for 38 yards on the Chiefs' second drive, setting up a 12-yard touchdown run by Charles to give Kansas City its first lead since a 7-3 victory over Denver in the 2011 regular-season finale.

The lead grew to 10-0 after an Isaac Redman fumble deep in Pittsburgh territory led to a 22-yard field goal by Succop.

"I think we played well in all phases," Cassel said. "That was the first time we played well together this year."

Like any brief flirtation with success for Kansas City, it didn't last. The Steelers pulled even at halftime on a 35-yard field goal by Suisham and a remarkable 7-yard touchdown grab in the corner of the end zone. The ball slid through Wallace's hands, but he secured it with his legs—and controlled it—before rolling out of bounds.

There would be no second-half carryover, however. Whatever energy the Steelers had vanished the second Roethlisberger trudged to the sideline holding his right shoulder.

In that moment all the chatter about Kansas City's visit and former Chiefs coach turned Pittsburgh offensive coordinator Todd Haley's shot at revenge vanished.

Trout, Harper voted Rookies of the Year

NEW YORK (AP)—Mike Trout and Bryce Harper were teammates on the Scottsdale Scorpions last fall. The outfielders arrived in the major leagues on the same April day this year, both played in the All-Star game and they won Rookie of the Year awards a half-hour apart Monday, the vanguard of baseball's next generation.

The 21-year-old Trout was a unanimous pick as the youngest AL rookie winner, and the 20-year-old Harper edged Arizona pitcher Wade Miley 112 points to 105 to become the second-youngest winner of the NL honor.

"It's pretty neat," said Trout, the son of former Minnesota minor leaguer Jeff Trout.

For the first time, players learned the voting results when they were announced on television.

"My heart was beating a little bit," Harper said.

Trout, who turned 21 on Aug. 7, received all 28 first-place votes from the AL panel of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. The Los Angeles Angels center fielder was the eighth unanimous AL pick and the first since Tampa Bay's Evan Longoria in 2008.

There could be more to come, too. Trout is among five finalists for AL MVP and is considered the chief challenger to Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera for that award, which will be announced Thursday.

"It would just top it off," Trout said.

Trout hit .326, second-best in the league to Cabrera's .330, with 30 homers and 83 RBIs, and he led the majors with 129 runs and 49 steals. He joined Ted Williams, Mel Ott and Alex Rodriguez as the only players to hit .320 or higher with 30 or more homers in seasons they started as a 20-year-old.

Trout received the maximum 140 points. Oakland outfielder Yoenis Cespedes was second with 63, followed by Texas pitcher Yu Darvish (46), who joined Trout as the only players listed on every ballot.

Detroit second baseman Lou Whitaker had been the youngest AL winner in 1978, but he was 3 months, 5 days older than Trout on the day he took home the award.

In addition to Trout and Longoria, the only other unanimous AL winners were Nomar Garciaparra, Derek Jeter, Tim Salmon, Sandy Alomar Jr., Mark McGwire and Carlton Fisk.

Trout's father made it to Double-A as an infielder with the Twins in the mid-1980s and watched his son build a career growing up in New Jersey, where the seasons are short and cold.

"He went out and did it and endured it," Jeff Trout said.

Added mom Debbie: "All the hard work paid off."

Trout, taken by the Angels with the 25th overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft, still lives at home with his parents during the offseason. The award will join others in the family house.

"He gets a lot of good home cooking," Jeff Trout said.

Trout spent some time in the majors last year but still retained his rookie status. He began this season in the minors and made his first big league appearance this year on April 28—the day of Harper's major league debut.

Trout was on a flight from Salt Lake City to Cleveland when he saw on Twitter that Harper was being called up the same day.

Harper turned 20 on Oct. 16 and has been hyped for years. When he was just 16, he appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated with the headline "CHOSEN ONE."

"He's been put on the spotlight since he was 15 years old," Trout said.

The Washington Nationals outfielder got 16 of 32 first-place votes from the NL panel. Miley was second with 12 first-place votes, followed by Cincinnati slugger Todd Frazier with three firsts and 45 points. Harper appeared on every ballot, and Bill Center of U-T San Diego was the only voter who didn't include Miley.

Harper was the top pick in the 2010 amateur draft and batted .270 with 22 home runs and 59 RBIs as Washington brought postseason play to the nation's capital for the first time since 1933. Only Tony Conigliaro (24) hit more home runs as a teenager.

"Every little kid's dream is to be a big league ballplayer or a doctor or a firefighter or whatever everybody wants to be," Harper said. "That was my dream and I wanted to make that dream come true as quickly as possible."

At 20 years, 27 days on Monday, he was 24 days older than New York Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden when he won the NL award in 1984.

"This game is unbelievable. I love it with everything I've got," Harper said, "and I'm going to play every single day like it's my last."

And the admiration of Harper and Trout is mutual, especially after their time together last year with Scottsdale in the Arizona Fall League, for the game's premier prospects.

"He's one of the best players in baseball, if not the best right now," Harper said. "He's pretty impressive every day he plays."

For now, each has a rookie award. In the future, they may earn MVPs on the same day.

"We play the game the right way," Trout said. "We're always running out balls. He's always hustling, trying to make that big play."

Titans II wins Thursday Budweiser pennant

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

19th Hole Bar & Grill's Titans II team answered the final bell and held off Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Equalizers back on Nov. 1 to clinch the Saipan Billiards Association's Thursday division title as the organization's 15th Annual Budweiser Open 8-Ball League season rounded to a close.

Titans II then went on to eliminate its rival in the opening round of last week's Budweiser Cup postseason tournament, while SOS Bar & Grill's two-time Tuesday division champion IT&E Voyagers remains favored heading into its Bud Cup finals duel versus Bammy's Triggers tonight.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

19th Hole Bar & Grill's Titans II is stamping its class in the Saipan Billiards Association and is only one series win away from winning the Budweiser Cup postseason tournament.

Back on Nov. 1, Titans II squished The Waterfront's third-ranked Eight It! (117-108) squad, 13-2, on the road, matching the Equalizers (144-81) home rout over Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS (94-131) to keep its modest three-game advantage intact heading into the last round of the 2012 summer/winter regular season.

Titans II finished its title run with a 147-78 win-loss record.

In other results, Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (101-124) signed off with a close, 8-7, road win over 19th Hole's Eagles (72-153).

Then this past Thursday, Titans II squeaked past its rivals, 9-8, at Bammy's to claim its seat in this week's final four feature, while Shark Attack pulled off a 9-2 shocker at home to oust Eight It!.

As a result of finishing as the bottom pair in the standings, the Eagles and Team SCS were both gifted with first round byes and will face off against each other this week at the 19th Hole. The Titans II travel to Wild Bill's where they will take on Shark Attack.

Meanwhile, in Tuesday's Bud Cup semis, IT&E Voyagers handled the Home Boyz, 9-4, on the road and the Triggers triumphed over Crazy 8, 9-6, at Poseidon. The victors will be squaring off at Bammy's tonight.

The SBA is organized by Pacific Amusements, Inc. and follows official BCA rules. For more information, contact Warlee Ellama at 233-4397.

SHIRLEY'S

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together with Shirley's.

Rommel Usi, Fradel Sedillo, and Erick Dela Rosa teamed up for 69 points to overcome the 51-point explosion of D&Q/CTSI's Jack Lizama. Usi fired 29 markers, Sedillo added 23, and Dela Rosa chipped in 17.

Lizama almost single-handedly carried the fight for D&Q/CTSI in the fourth quarter, which started with Shirley's ahead, 65-55. He had 19 of their 25 points, but the mobile forward still fell short in the end, as Shirley's deadly trio delivered the insurance baskets in the homestretch. Dela Rosa scored 5 of Shirley's last 8 points, including three crucial free throws, Usi made a bucket, and Sedillo added one more charity to peg the final score.

Kanoa Resort 87, JP Centre 67

In the first game in the last day of the regular season, Kanoa Resort routed JP Centre.

Kanoa improved to a 6-4 record to finish third in the team standings, while JP Centre dropped to fifth with its 3-7 slate.

A better game in the second half allowed Kanoa to dominate JP Centre, which still led by four at the break, 44-40, before collapsing in the final 20 minutes of play.

JP Centre was held to two field goals in the third off Mark Rabago and Rowell Caduan's baskets, while Kanoa scored 18 to grab the lead, 58-48. Ryan Manglona and Joe Guerrero teamed up for 12 markers in Kanoa's third-quarter assault.

Kanoa went on to keep the double-digit lead in the fourth, as Manglona continued to burn the hoops. The Kanoa gunner finished with a game-high 34 points, 11 of them came in the final canto.

Fiesta 88, POI 74

Fiesta Resort & Spa won the last game in the regular season after topping POI.

Fiesta is ranked fourth in the team standings with its 5-5 slate, while POI placed last with its dismal 1-9 card.

The defending champion got off to a strong start, leading at 18-6, and never looked back to notch its fifth win and third in the second round. Joseph Villamena and Adonis Macoto logged 6 markers apiece, while Elmer Esdrelon contributed 5 in the opening canto to give Fiesta the momentum of the game early on.

Esdrelon went on to wax hot from downtown in the next two quarters, hitting five triples to lead Fiesta's breakaway. Paul Quizon then put the finishing touches in the lopsided win, as he drilled 8 points in the final canto.

Meanwhile, the playoff round will start on Dec. 1 with Kanoa Resort taking on POI in the first pairing and Fiesta meeting JP Centre in the second match. Winner of the POI-Kanoa tiff will challenge Shirley's in the first semis game, while the victor of the Fiesta-JP Centre duel will battle D&Q/CTSI. The semis matches are set for Dec. 8, while the championship and consolation games are scheduled for Dec. 15.

First Game

Kanoa Resort 87 – Manglona 34, Guerrero 14, Ada 10, Pablo 10, Nunez 9, Ganiban 8, David 2.

JP Centre 67 – Rabago 23, Caduan 16, J. Ong 14, Valdez 9, Sutherland 3, Tesero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 40-44, 58-48, 87-67.

Second Game

Shirley's 83 – Usi 29, Sedillo 23, Dela Rosa 17, Catungal 6, Yap 2.

CTSI 80 – Lizama 51, Jinang 12, Mendiola 9, Garcia 6, Sakuma 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 38-32, 65-55, 83-80.

Third Game

Fiesta Resort 88 – Esdrelon 20, Villamena 19, Quizon 14, Macoto 10, Reyes 4, Solito 4, Plata 2, Aloka 2.

POI 74 – Pena 18, Tenepere 17, Arago 14, Sablan 14, Esteves 7, Iglesias 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-6, 43-36, 67-52, 88-74.

KENSUKE

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rayre, Fiji's Meli Malani, Cheyene Rova, and Skye Eden, and Tahiti's Maruiki Aitamai, Alex Buvry, Noeline Laughlin, and Mehani Beradino. Tahiti's Paul Lang will be the team's head coach, while Samoa's Suzie Schuster will assist him and also serves as manager.

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation president John Hirsh announced Kimura's selection after receiving an email from Oceania Swimming Association honorary secretary Lawrie Cox of Australia.

"The 2013 AYOF Oceania Team has been announced. Great news. Kensuke has been selected. Congratulations to Kensuke," Hirsh said in an email circulated to NMSF members and officials.

Kimura is thankful for his selections and vows to set CNMI records in Sydney and help his Oceania Team in keeping up with the host country, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, Hungary, and Japan.

"I feel so honored to be chosen on the Oceania Team. I will be the first swimmer from the CNMI to attend the Australia Youth Olympics so I want to make my coach, teammates, and my supporters proud by getting good results from my races," Kimura said.

"I am also looking forward to meeting my teammates and building a strong relationship with them. The next two months will all be about hard work, as I prepare for the tournament next year," the Grace Christian Academy student added.

Kensuke's coach and father, Hiro, said his son's selection will serve as an inspiration to CNMI's upcoming swimmers.

"Kensuke selection will encourage young swimmers to keep practicing hard as they may earn the same chance to compete in a prestigious tournaments, such as the Australian Youth Olympic Festival. It's a great experience for Kensuke, as he will be able to race along side Oceania swimmers and learn from new coaches," the older Kimura said.

Hiro added that he needs to coordinate first with Hirsh and Oceania officials about Kensuke's races in Sydney next year. Fourteen individual events and three relays are scheduled in next year's AYOF.

16 JOIN

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Lee, Colin Ramsey, Amon and Ariya McGuire, Negahr Rastguiy, Caitlin Tinney, Alisa Tatsiral, Maile Aldrich, Ellie Epleu, Maria Gregoire, Mia Hirsh, So Bin Cho, Shea Hartig, Jin Ju Thompson, Sam Ryu, Dominic Zedde, Talia Trianni, Amber Montenegro, Hana Lynn Nelson, Max and Kaden Church, Zion Okano, and Sally Lai. Jeff Race coached the Terns.

The organizing Saipan Swim Club has yet to release the results of the elementary division contest and two other divisions (middle school and high school), as volunteers are still double checking how swimmers of each school finished in the various races. SSC lined up 30 events in the weekend event and each swimmer received points after their races.

Challenging Whispering Palms in the elementary division championship were Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, Garapan Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Brilliant Star, Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Agape Christian School, Seventh Day Adventist, and Koblerville. SIS and defending champion SCS also competed in the middle school against Hopwood Junior High School and Grace Christian Academy.

The GCA Eagles, who ruled the high school division last season, were back last weekend and faced SIS and Marianas High School swimmers. The GCA Eagles were bannered by Kensuke Kimura and Shigeki Tenorio. Completing GCA's swim squad were Edward Kim, Leona Pangelinan, Angel Marie Tan, and Ryu Tanzawa.

Saipan Community School had the second most entries in the All Schools with 13. Swimming for the Tsunamis were Taiyo and Kento Akimaru, Hans and Hana Xu, Jinnosuke and Lennosuke Suzuki, Andrew Kim, Katherine Johnson, Arthur Sondheim, Sueng Jin Park, Miku Torres, Anthony Deleon Guerrero, and Jenisha Dubrall.

The rest of the participating schools fielded less than 10 swimmers, leaving the three favored schools—SCS, Whispering Palms, and GCA—a good chance of retaining their respective division titles.

Meanwhile, SSC president Robert Torres during the closing ceremony of the competition last Saturday thanked the schools, their coaches, and principals, and volunteers from both SSC and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan for making the 2012 edition of the All Schools meet possible. He added that copies of the race results will be forwarded to the coaches and principals before the week ends and trophies for the top finisher in each division will also be awarded.

STRONG

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Francisco (women's C), Glenn Bluutjens and Lee So Young (mixed AB), and Malou Malasarte and Young (women's AB).

The Golden Racquets saved three victories in the opening week courtesy of the tandems of Jojo and Jen Savellano, Cheng Saturno and Marilyn Montano, and Jordan Pangelinan and Jen Savellano. The father-and-daughter pair prevailed over Oh and Lee in the mixed B doubles, 21-20, 21-19; Jen and Jordan Pangelinan swept Alma Ortega and Caranto in the mixed BC, 21-11, 21-7; and Saturno and Montano defeated Alma Ortega and Heo In Sook in the women's B.

In the Berks Blazers-TAGA pairing, the former claimed eight matches and dropped only two to take the early lead in the team standings.

Wowie Abuel owned three of those eight wins, as he swept his three doubles matches. In the mixed AB, Abuel and Annette Quiambao won over Panapa Peteru and Emily Vargas, 21-10, 21-12. Then in the mixed BC, Abuel partnered with Arlena Naguit in beating Johann Noetzel and Lani Santos, 21-18, 21-10. Finally, in the men's B, Abuel and Rommel Monserat made short work of Ariel Mariano and Celso Agui, 21-12, 21-11.

The Berks Blazers five other victories came from the duos of Jane Tupas and Naguit (women's C), Rommel Bartolome and Jeff Riman (men's C), Lanie Bartolome and Lucelle Lampera (women's AB), Macoi Aguda and John Revilla (men's AB), and Riman and Tupas (mixed C).

The Berks Blazers' missed a sweep after losing the mixed AB and women's B. TAGA's Andreau Galvez and Elna Curate downed Ferdie Arago and Naguit in the mixed AB, 21-20, 21-15, while Loida Ito and Cristy Villaflor won over Lampera and Tupas in the women's B, 21-17, 21-14.

All the matches in Berks-TAGA duel were decided only after two matches.

Meanwhile, Week 2 of the Traders tournament was played last Saturday and Sunday and results will be published in *Saipan Tribune*'s Thursday edition.

2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 1 and 2

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

High School and junior high school runners head out to the course during last Saturday's 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 2 in Susupe.

Two Agape Christian School students run along the shore.

A U8 runner nears the finish line.

Runners line up as they head back to the starting line to complete the first lap of the three-lap race.

Spectators cheer on a U8 runner near the finish line.

Elementary school students race to the finish line during the 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 1 held on Oct. 27 at the Airport Field.

Northern Marianas Athletics' Elias Rangamar, right, accompanies her daughter Kina going into the last few meters of the race.

An Agape Christian School student, left, cheers on his schoolmates.

Two runners sprint to the finish line.

Northern Marianas Athletics' Elias Rangamar gives instructions to runners before starting the race.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kensuke off to Australian Olympic Festival

Shirley's wins pennant

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Ariel Drilon goes for a reverse layup against D&Q/CTSI defenders during their game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop clinched the pennant in the 2012 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after outlasting rival D&Q/CTSI, 83-80, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Shirley's finished the double round robin regular season with an 8-2 record and will be seeded first in the single-elimination playoffs. D&Q/CTSI settled for the No. 2 spot with its 7-3 record and earned a first round bye in the playoffs

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura races in the 800m freestyle event in the 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will be represented in the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival after Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Kensuke Kimura was selected on the swim team that will compete in Sydney next year.

Kimura is one of the 12 swimmers on the Oceania Team that will race in the AYOF, which will from Jan. 16 to 20. The AYOF is an international multi-sport event organized by the Australian Olympic Committee and was first held in 2001. It was originally a biennial event but after the International Olympic Committee started the Youth Olympic Games in 2010, the host country decided to make AYOF a quadrennial competition. Next year's AYOF will feature 16 other sports and 30 nations and is for athletes in the U17 age group.

Joining Kimura on the Oceania Team are New Caledonia's Nathan Barberis, Emmanual Limozin, Emma Terebo, and Maeva Pa-

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Strong start for SBC, Berks

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Badminton Club's Sam Jones serves while teammate Hannah Choi gets ready during their mixed doubles game against the Berks Blazers' Ferdie Arago and Lanie Bartolome in the Traders Insurance tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan Badminton Club and the Berks Blazers dominated their respective foes in Week 1 of the 2012 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

SBC downed the Golden Racquets, 20-10, while the Berks Blazers whipped TAGA Badminton Club, 24-6. Week 1 matches were played at the TSL Sports Complex on Nov. 4 and 9 with the clubs earning 3 points for a two-game sweep and 2 for a three-game match.

A sweep in the first six matches and one victory in the last four gave SBC a strong start in the five-club tournament. Joel Ortega handed SBC two victories with the first one recorded in the men's doubles C where he and Son Jae Ok defeated Jordan Pangelinan and JP Nopia, 21-15, 21-14. The second win and the only match in the SBC-Berks pairing that was extended in three games had Ortega and Julie Lee edging Jordan and Janelle Pangelinan in the mixed doubles C, 21-15, 12-21,21-19.

Jexler Caranto duplicated Joel Ortega's feat, as the former won in the men's AB and B doubles. Caranto partnered with Sam Jones in sweeping Noli Santos and Jojo Savellano in the men's AB doubles, 21-14, 21-14, and later teamed up with Oh Im Bog in topping Alvin Alvarez and Vic Regis, 21-9, 21-4.

Week 1 matches were all doubles events with SBC drawing three more wins from the pairs of Alma Ortega and Dianne

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16 join SSC All Schools meet

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Swimmers plunge into the pool during the 100m breaststroke race in the 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fifteen schools competed for bragging rights in the 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Seven-time elementary division champion Whispering Palms led the list and also had the most swimmers entered in the weekend event with its 34. Whispering Palms' is composed of brothers Blake, Logan, and Dylan Mister, Steven and Mylan Goodwin, Cole Chambers, Jon and Gillian Villagomez, Eugene Park, Troy Young, Steven

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